THE SHAKERITE

November 2, 2007 • Volume 78 • Issue 2 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

History in the House

•Dr. Terrence Roberts, a member of the Little Rock Nine, stressed education during his Oct. 17 appearance.

Noteworthy, Page 6

ROLLING OUT THE SUSHI

LIMELIGHT EXPLORES THE WIDE WORLD OF SUSHI SHOPPING. CHECK IT OUT TO LEARN THE BEST PLACE TO PICK SOME UP

PAGE 8

KEEPING IT CLEAN

COLUMNIST WESLEY LOWERY REVEALS WHAT MAKES CHAMILLIONAIRE'S SOPHOMORE ALBUM DIFFERENT FROM THE REST

PAGE 10

BEHIND THE WHEEL

EVER WONDER WHAT YOUR IN-CAR DRIVER THOUGHT OF YOU? HEAD TO THE BEAT TO READ ONE INSTRUCTOR'S TAKE ON SHAKER DRIVERS

PAGE 12

COVER SHOT

DR. TERRENCE ROBERTS fields student questions in the Small Auditorium. Roberts, a member of the Little Rock Nine, visited the high school Oct. 17 came as part of his involvment with Facing History and Ourselves. Social studies teacher Andi Glickman coordinated the visit. Photo by Su Dong.

EDITORS' NOTE

A visitor's guide to college visits

While writing college essays and filling out scholarship forms are aspects of the college application process students most dread, the prospect of leaving Shaker and entering the world of a college campus is enticing.

Yet it only takes a few college visits to realize that all campus tours are pretty similar.

WESLEY LOWERY

The tour guides are peppy students who love their school and introduce themselves with uninhibited enthusiasm. They usually explain that they'll walk backwards and you should let them know if they are going to run into something.

On his or her backward stroll, your guide will stop to conveniently point out this newly renovated dorm or to tell an ancient campus myth. Don't walk through this gateway or you'll never graduate, they warn. If you share a kiss on this rock, wedding bells are in your future. Be sure to avoid the left most door to the library to improve your chances at passing your midterms.

ALLISON SCHARFSTEIN

Comments regarding instructors, food and safety are almost always delivered with a suspiciously positive bent. Professors are easily accessible and friendly, while the "wide variety" of food is always delicious. Students never feel unsafe but even they did, the ever-present campus security fleet will swoop in to thwart the plans of any potential troublemakers.

The often-repetitive nature of campus visits can be discouraging; however, the tour remains a vital and defining part of the college selection process Therefore it is important that you make the most of your college visits.

Use selective hearing to pick out only the important facts from the tour guide's presentation. How many students are in a typical class? What is the social life like? Is the campus atheistically pleasing?

More importantly, accept the tour guide's invitation for questions and ask ones that will give you a true feeling for the atmosphere of the school. What do most students here complain about? If your tour guide doesn't dodge this question, the answer can provide important insight into the school's characteristics.

How has your experience at this school been different from what you expected? Another question that will allow you to think about aspects of the school you hadn't considered before.

Also, use your time at a campus talking to not only your scripted tour guides but also conversing with a broad range of students and faculty. This will give you a more realistic view of everyday life at the school you are visiting.

It's true that campus tours often morph together into a mess of backward walking, bizarre myths and ridiculous statistics, but if you take the proactive approach to campus visits, you will walk away with a better understanding of the school.

FALL SPORTS

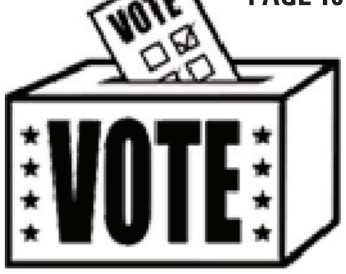
WRAP-UP

RAIDER ZONE REVIEWS THE FALL SPORTS SEASON. HEAD TO PAGE 14 TO READ HOW YOUR FAVORITE TEAM FARED.

RAIDER ZONE, 14

THE EDITORIAL BOARD FILLS YOU IN ON HOW TO CAST YOUR BALLOT NOV. 6

PAGE 10



THE SHAKERITE

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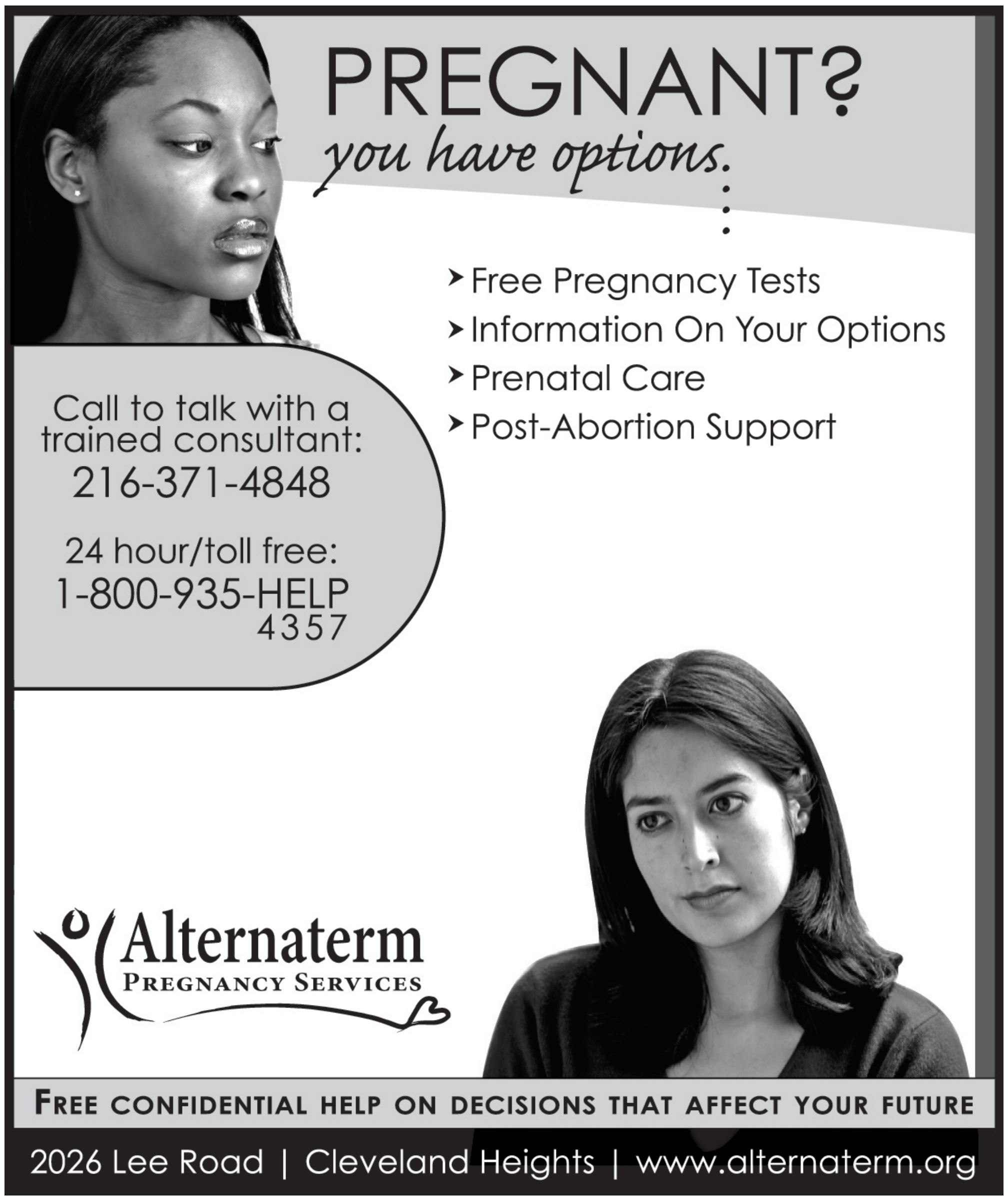
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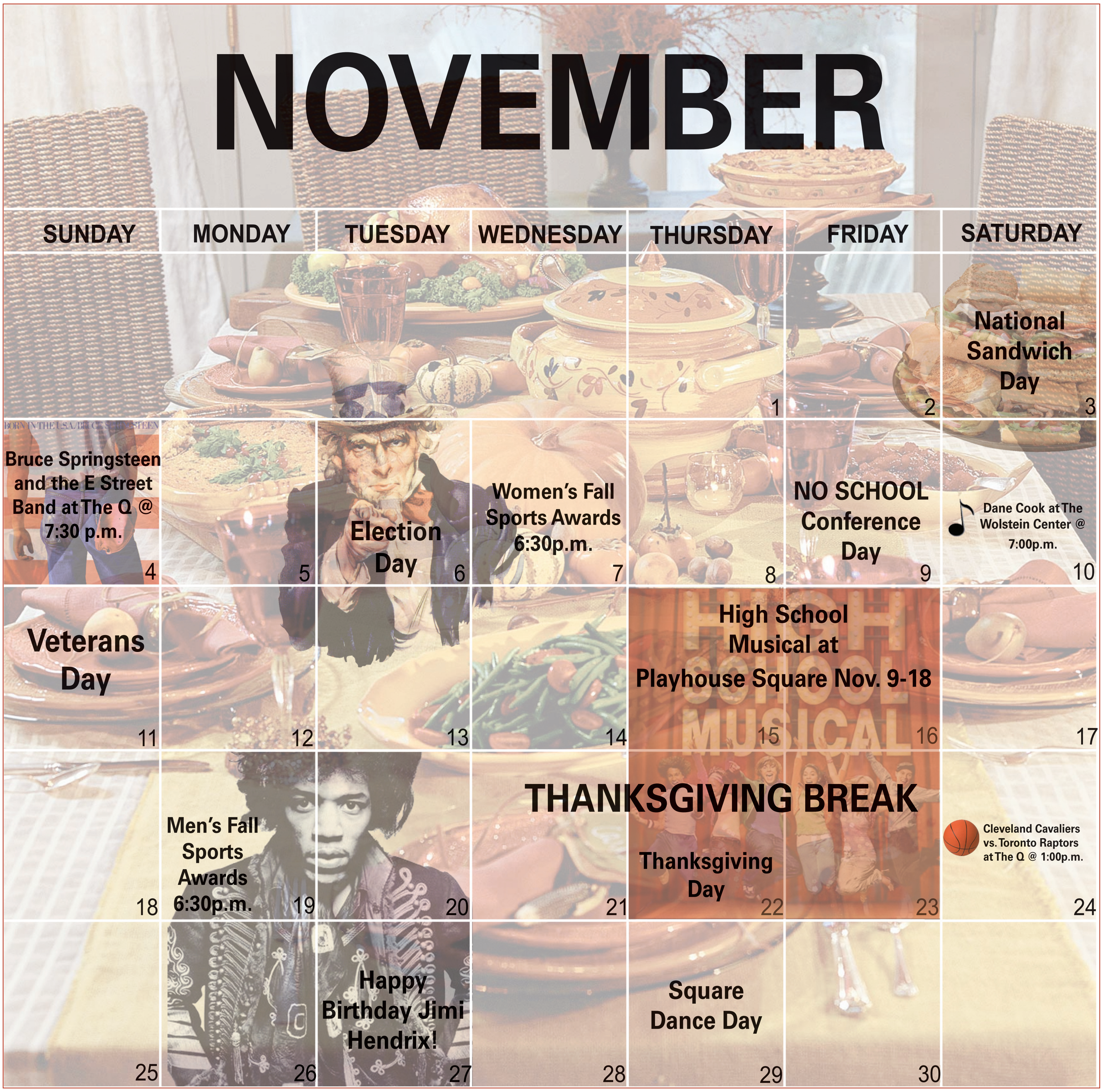
This Month

11.02.07

A MONTH TO GIVE THANKS FOR

With the start of November comes the beginning of the second grading quarter, which should inspire students to work harder and get those grades up before the end of the semester. This month, try to get into the habit of going to conferences at least once a week and getting your homework done before 10 p.m. the night before it's due. Crazy thought, right? You might be pleasantly surprised by the difference just a bit more effort will make. And if all the stress of school is starting to get you down, remember Thanksgiving break is right around the corner.



NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	National Sandwich Day 3
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band at The Q @ 7:30 p.m. 4	5	Election Day 6	Women's Fall Sports Awards 6:30p.m. 7	8	NO SCHOOL Conference Day 9	Dane Cook at The Wolstein Center @ 7:00p.m. 10
Veterans Day 11	12	13	14	High School Musical at Playhouse Square Nov. 9-18 15	16	17
18	Men's Fall Sports Awards 6:30p.m. 19	20	THANKSGIVING BREAK 21	Thanksgiving Day 22	23	Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Toronto Raptors at The Q @ 1:00p.m. 24
25	26	Happy Birthday Jimi Hendrix! 27	28	Square Dance Day 29	30	

Calories? 1,935 But hey, who's counting?

Thanksgiving has come a long way since 1621, when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn feast, which later became known as the first Thanksgiving. Today Thanksgiving is celebrated widely throughout the United States and Canada in many different ways.

Traditionally, Thanksgiving is celebrated with a feast to wrap up the fall harvest. Old fashioned Thanksgiving cuisine includes mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin pie and a roast turkey.

However, the menu at the first Thanksgiving back in 1621 was quite different. Many historians believe there was more meat and not as many vegetables at the first feast, and it's also believed that there was not a sweet dessert.

Several Shaker students carry on the tradition of a feast while catching up with family and friends. Junior Tempest Charles said Thanksgiving is her favorite holiday. "I get to see my whole family at once for a happy occasion," she said.

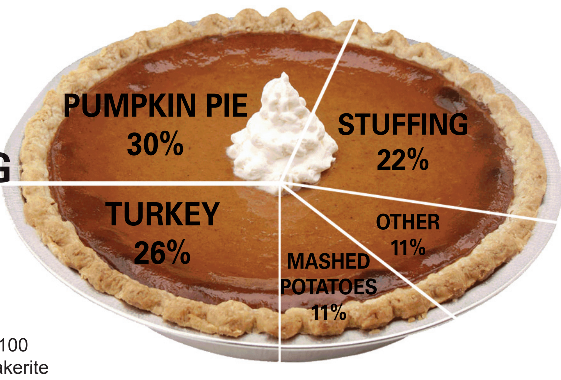
Although seeing family and friends is certainly enjoyable, for many, it is the Thanksgiving meal that makes the holiday truly special. Senior Jeff Stevens summed it up. "Food. It's all good," he said.

You might watch what you pile onto your plate on this holiday. The average American will inhale 1,935 calories at Thanksgiving dinner alone, and that's before getting seconds! That's about the same as scarfing down seven Snickers bars in one sitting.

If food and family are still not enough to get you looking forward to this November holiday, think about the time off from school. Thanksgiving gives Shaker students a five-day weekend, now that's something to give thanks for. "Thanksgiving is great because we get a super long weekend and I can just relax and hang out with friends for a few days," junior Catherine Cook said.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is another thing to look forward to, even though some find it childish, the floats, balloons and blow up characters are actually kind of cool, ranging from Barbie Princess to National Football League floats. And if an NFL float isn't enough to get you interested, you might be able to see a float crash into the crowd as it did in the 2005 parade leaving two sisters with concussions and stitches. Tune in to the parade this year at 9 a.m. on ET Thanksgiving morning to see if any other floats will cause problems.

TOP 5 FAVORITE THANKSGIVING FOODS



A scientific telephone poll of 100 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 9.8 percent

Compiled by Abby Schiller

REPORTS OF DRUG-RESISTANT STAPH INFECTION GROW

Cases of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus have been reported across the state of Ohio, mostly in the southwest. Also, a football player at Canton McKinley High School has contracted an infection that health officials believe is MRSA. Spread by skin-to-skin contact, MRSA cannot be treated with most antibiotics but can be prevented by careful handwashing after any skin-to-skin contact."We haven't had any here, but that doesn't mean we're exempt from it," said Paula Dworkin, the high school nurse. "[You prevent it by] just doing the normal, common-sense that people forget to do."

NOT WORTH COMING HOME FOR? HOMECOMING '07 DISAPPOINTS

BY ALEXA SYKES
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

More than Arabian decorations, free punch and 8 p.m. dinner reservations were needed to ensure Shaker students an enjoyable Homecoming Dance this year.

Complaints about music and temperature as well as denied admission of the Homecoming King and several other senior Student Council members who arrived late dominated discussion after the Oct. 6 dance. Meanwhile, administrators expressed satisfaction with changes they implemented in response to parent complaints about behavior at the Sept. 14 Back to School Dance.

Erotic dancing and excessive drinking were among the concerns Principal Michael Griffith and the PTO discussed following the Back to School Dance.

According to the administration, both concerns were nearly eliminated at this year's Homecoming Dance by diversifying the music and with the help of Student Council.

"Student Council did a wonderful job in encouraging students not to drink, and we were very pleased with the outcome," said Assistant Principal and Student Council adviser Eric Hutchinson.

> I did repeat music that I thought were the top hits of the night.
>
> Sandy Krsak
> Homecoming DJ

According to Hutchinson, the dancing issue was "taken care of" by diversifying the music that the DJ was allowed to play.

However, students didn't think highly of the songs. "I think the administration diversified the music, but it could've been done in a much more appealing way. Songs were being played that no one wanted to hear or dance to," junior Erin Bozarth said.

The DJ, Sandy Krsak from Entertainment Express, also worked Prom last spring. Student Council treasurer Chante Whitlow met with Krsak twice, once to show her a list of 130 songs that she had compiled, and again with three other Student Council members to edit it and add more songs.

Krsak argues that she repeated songs that seemed popular. "I did repeat music that were the top hits of the night . . . but I thought it turned out really well," she said.

Krsak continued that she refused to play songs that included profanity, so that automatically eliminated several songs from the playlist.

According to Gassman, only eight songs were supposed to be removed from the playlist, all because the lyrics included the n-word.

The absence of Homecoming King Adam Sauerland also aggravated students. He and several senior Student Council members arrived after the 9:30 p.m. cut-off and were turned away at the entrance.

"I was upset because it was my senior homecoming, but Mr. Griffith was put in a difficult situation, and I don't blame him for the decision he made," Sauerland said.

Sauerland was told by Griffith that rules are rules, and he could not make an exception for some students and not others. "I think it was the most fair and correct decision he could have made, though Student Council did work really hard to put the whole thing together. I feel most bad for them than anything or anyone else," Sauerland continued.

Among those inside the North Gym, complaints mounted when an electric circuit overloaded, causing the music and air conditioning to shut off. Though warned by custodial staff, Student Council had earlier decided to move the DJ to the side of the gym near the doors so students would have more room to dance. Unortunately, the decision backfired.

"They told us that it might blow a fuse . . . but that was just a risk we had to take," Gassman said. When power was restored, the music resumed, but air conditioning did not. "If we had known it could've done that, we would've never considered moving the DJ," Gassman said.

Homecoming '07 Mix
Songs Not Played

"International Players Anthem" UGK
"Don't Make" 8ball & MJG
"No Drama" 8ball & MJG
"Poppin Bottles" Lil Wayne & Bird
"Brown Paper Bag" Lil' Wayne
"Beauty is Her Name" Dru Hill
"Throwawayz" Yung Joc
"Iced Up" Gucci Mane
"Rain Man" Gucci Mane
"What You Know" T.I.
"Fire" Jimi Hendrix
"Sandstorm" DaRude
"Thunder Horse" Dethklok
"Final Countdown" Europe
"Number of the Beast" Iron Maiden
"Break the Habit"Linkin Park
"I'm Not Okay" My Chemical Romance
"The Odyssey" Symphony X

Clubs survive in spite of problems finding advisers

MICHAEL COWETT
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

The struggle to find faculty advisers for three Shaker clubs is over, with Speech and Debate securing a leadership team to replace longtime sponsor Robert White, and Student Council and Junior Councl on World Affairs also getting advisers.

White took on advisory duties for Latin Club after the resignation of Nick Potkalitsky, Latin Club's sponsor last year.

"The idea was that Latin Club sponsorship . . . would be better served by an experienced teacher than a new teacher," White said. Speech and debate had the most significant problems of the three groups in obtaining a new adviser.

The role will be filled by a combination of people, including several parents and Josh Marcin. Marcin is a John Carroll University student who has helped out with the debate team in the past.

"Much of the responsibilities associated with the club have now fallen on parents of the club members, most of whom have very little experience in organizing a speech and debate team," said Scott Piraino, a sophomore who has helped to organize the club for this year.

"This caused some early problems for the team, because organization for the club got started so late, and because the many people outside of Shaker who had helped the team in the past were unaware of the situation."

Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson will, for the second straight year, serve as the lone adviser for Student Council. However, Student Council President Hartley Brody said the single adviser situation hasn't posed a problem.

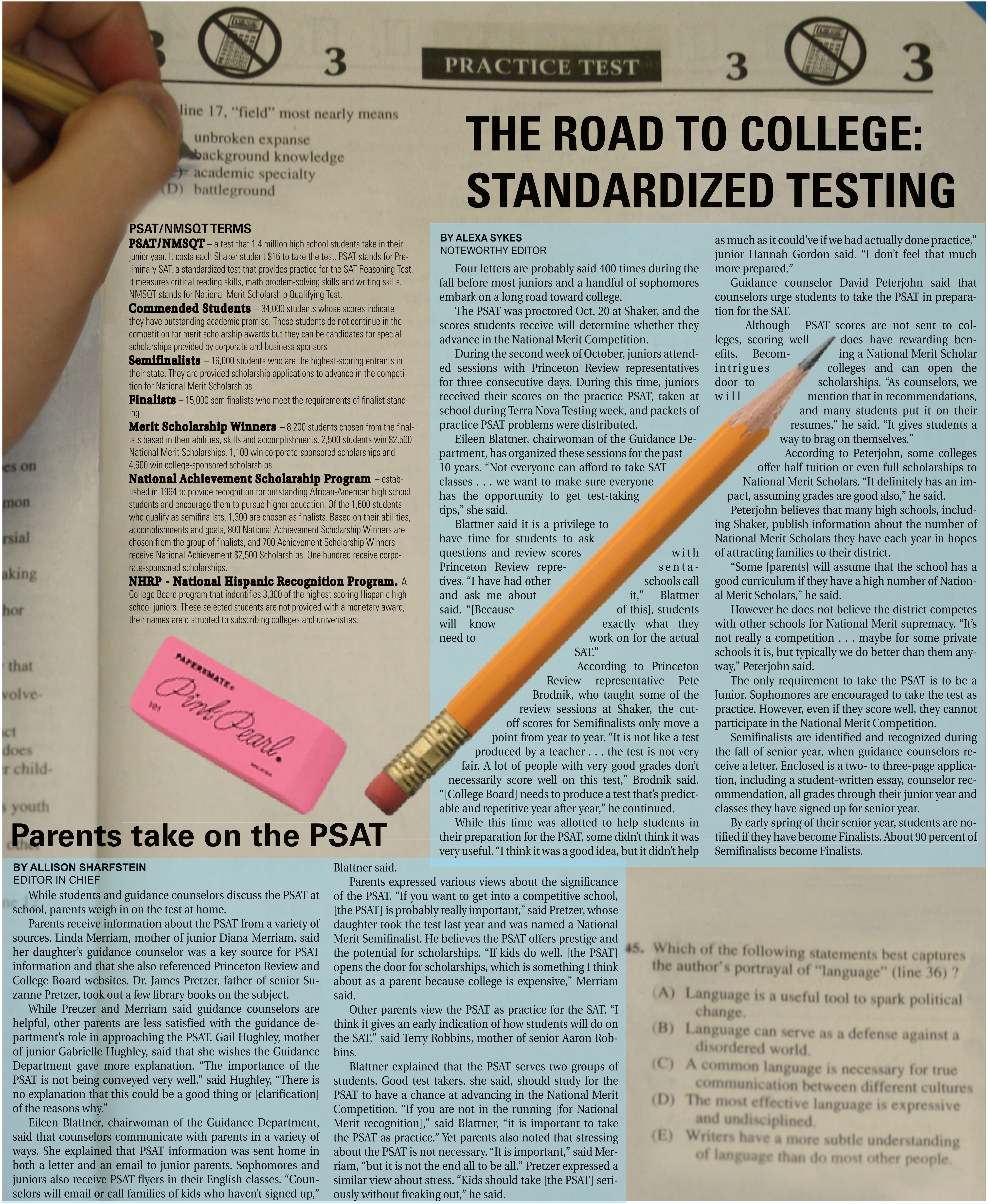
"His role is not really someone who 'advises' [Student Council] . . . we are a group of students, run by a group of students. [Hutchinson] has been crucial as far as giving council direct access to an administrator, which cuts through a lot of red tape . . . His role has been to give us the push, and then step back and let us ride the bike ourselves," Brody said.

JCWA has also encountered difficulties finding a replacement for Suzanne Gyurgyik, the French teacher who served as adviser last year. Tony Cuda, a social studies teacher, and special education teacher Stacy Steggert will advise JCWA this year.

Senior Greg Van Lunteren, secretary-general of JCWA, said that the transition to a new adviser would be tougher because the executive board of the club is very inexperienced.

"The advisers have had to be more involved with the board. The club is very much student run, and its executive board takes care of nearly everything besides [handling money] and working with the school district's administration," he explained.

> Much of the responsibilities associated with the club have now fallen on parents of the club members . . . This caused some early problems for the team.
>
> Scott Piraino
> sophomore


3
PRACTICE TEST
3
3
line 17, "field" most nearly means
unbroken expanse
background knowledge
academic specialty
(D) battleground
45. Which of the following statements best captures the author's portrayal of "language" (line 36) ?
(A) Language is a useful tool to spark political change.
(B) Language can serve as a defense against a disordered world.
(C) A common language is necessary for true communication between different cultures
(D) The most effective language is expressive and undisciplined.
(E) Writers have a more subtle understanding of language than do most other people.
PAPERMATE
Pink Pearl
101

THE ROAD TO COLLEGE: STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT/NMSQT TERMS

PSAT/NMSQT – a test that 1.4 million high school students take in their junior year. It costs each Shaker student $16 to take the test. PSAT stands for Preliminary SAT, a standardized test that provides practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. It measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills. NMSQT stands for National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Commended Students – 34,000 students whose scores indicate they have outstanding academic promise. These students do not continue in the competition for merit scholarship awards but they can be candidates for special scholarships provided by corporate and business sponsors

Semifinalists – 16,000 students who are the highest-scoring entrants in their state. They are provided scholarship applications to advance in the competition for National Merit Scholarships.

Finalists – 15,000 semifinalists who meet the requirements of finalist standing

Merit Scholarship Winners – 8,200 students chosen from the finalists based in their abilities, skills and accomplishments. 2,500 students win $2,500 National Merit Scholarships, 1,100 win corporate-sponsored scholarships and 4,600 win college-sponsored scholarships.

National Achievement Scholarship Program – established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding African-American high school students and encourage them to pursue higher education. Of the 1,600 students who qualify as semifinalists, 1,300 are chosen as finalists. Based on their abilities, accomplishments and goals, 800 National Achievement Scholarship Winners are chosen from the group of finalists, and 700 Achievement Scholarship Winners receive National Achievement $2,500 Scholarships. One hundred receive corporate-sponsored scholarships.

NHRP - National Hispanic Recognition Program. A College Board program that indentifies 3,300 of the highest scoring Hispanic high school juniors. These selected students are not provided with a monetary award; their names are distrubted to subscribing colleges and univeristies.

BY ALEXA SYKES
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Four letters are probably said 400 times during the fall before most juniors and a handful of sophomores embark on a long road toward college.

The PSAT was proctored Oct. 20 at Shaker, and the scores students receive will determine whether they advance in the National Merit Competition.

During the second week of October, juniors attended sessions with Princeton Review representatives for three consecutive days. During this time, juniors received their scores on the practice PSAT, taken at school during Terra Nova Testing week, and packets of practice PSAT problems were distributed.

Eileen Blattner, chairwoman of the Guidance Department, has organized these sessions for the past 10 years. “Not everyone can afford to take SAT classes . . . we want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to get test-taking tips,” she said.

Blattner said it is a privilege to have time for students to ask questions and review scores with Princeton Review representatives. “I have had other schools call and ask me about it,” Blattner said. “[Because of this], students will know exactly what they need to work on for the actual SAT.”

According to Princeton Review representative Pete Brodnik, who taught some of the review sessions at Shaker, the cut-off scores for Semifinalists only move a point from year to year. “It is not like a test produced by a teacher . . . the test is not very fair. A lot of people with very good grades don’t necessarily score well on this test,” Brodnik said. “[College Board] needs to produce a test that’s predictable and repetitive year after year,” he continued.

While this time was allotted to help students in their preparation for the PSAT, some didn’t think it was very useful. “I think it was a good idea, but it didn’t help as much as it could’ve if we had actually done practice,” junior Hannah Gordon said. “I don’t feel that much more prepared.”

Guidance counselor David Peterjohn said that counselors urge students to take the PSAT in preparation for the SAT.

Although PSAT scores are not sent to colleges, scoring well does have rewarding benefits. Becoming a National Merit Scholar intrigues colleges and can open the door to scholarships. “As counselors, we will mention that in recommendations, and many students put it on their resumes,” he said. “It gives students a way to brag on themselves.”

According to Peterjohn, some colleges offer half tuition or even full scholarships to National Merit Scholars. “It definitely has an impact, assuming grades are good also,” he said.

Peterjohn believes that many high schools, including Shaker, publish information about the number of National Merit Scholars they have each year in hopes of attracting families to their district.

“Some [parents] will assume that the school has a good curriculum if they have a high number of National Merit Scholars,” he said.

However he does not believe the district competes with other schools for National Merit supremacy. “It’s not really a competition . . . maybe for some private schools it is, but typically we do better than them anyway,” Peterjohn said.

The only requirement to take the PSAT is to be a Junior. Sophomores are encouraged to take the test as practice. However, even if they score well, they cannot participate in the National Merit Competition.

Semifinalists are identified and recognized during the fall of senior year, when guidance counselors receive a letter. Enclosed is a two- to three-page application, including a student-written essay, counselor recommendation, all grades through their junior year and classes they have signed up for senior year.

By early spring of their senior year, students are notified if they have become Finalists. About 90 percent of Semifinalists become Finalists.

Parents take on the PSAT

BY ALLISON SHARFSTEIN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

While students and guidance counselors discuss the PSAT at school, parents weigh in on the test at home.

Parents receive information about the PSAT from a variety of sources. Linda Merriam, mother of junior Diana Merriam, said her daughter’s guidance counselor was a key source for PSAT information and that she also referenced Princeton Review and College Board websites. Dr. James Pretzer, father of senior Suzanne Pretzer, took out a few library books on the subject.

While Pretzer and Merriam said guidance counselors are helpful, other parents are less satisfied with the guidance department’s role in approaching the PSAT. Gail Hughley, mother of junior Gabrielle Hughley, said that she wishes the Guidance Department gave more explanation. “The importance of the PSAT is not being conveyed very well,” said Hughley, “There is no explanation that this could be a good thing or [clarification] of the reasons why.”

Eileen Blattner, chairwoman of the Guidance Department, said that counselors communicate with parents in a variety of ways. She explained that PSAT information was sent home in both a letter and an email to junior parents. Sophomores and juniors also receive PSAT flyers in their English classes. “Counselors will email or call families of kids who haven’t signed up,” Blattner said.

Parents expressed various views about the significance of the PSAT. “If you want to get into a competitive school, [the PSAT] is probably really important,” said Pretzer, whose daughter took the test last year and was named a National Merit Semifinalist. He believes the PSAT offers prestige and the potential for scholarships. “If kids do well, [the PSAT] opens the door for scholarships, which is something I think about as a parent because college is expensive,” Merriam said.

Other parents view the PSAT as practice for the SAT. “I think it gives an early indication of how students will do on the SAT,” said Terry Robbins, mother of senior Aaron Robbins.

Blattner explained that the PSAT serves two groups of students. Good test takers, she said, should study for the PSAT to have a chance at advancing in the National Merit Competition. “If you are not in the running [for National Merit recognition],” said Blattner, “it is important to take the PSAT as practice.” Yet parents also noted that stressing about the PSAT is not necessary. “It is important,” said Merriam, “but it is not the end all to be all.” Pretzer expressed a similar view about stress. “Kids should take [the PSAT] seriously without freaking out,” he said.

BRIEFS

COLONEL, 9 OTHERS JOIN ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Ten Shaker Heights High School alumni were inducted into the Shaker Heights High School Alumni Association during a North Gym assembly Oct. 8.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel Clifford Gyves, class of '87, captivated students with a speech inspiring them to take nothing for granted during their high school careers. "Everything counts. And that, looking back, has proven true," Gyves told a silent and respectful audience. "All your studying makes a difference."

Born in New York City, Gyves lived in Shaker Heights during his childhood and adolescent years. His Shaker education propelled him to a military career that has spanned 15 countries and four continents. He has been in the Air Force more than half his life and now works in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Liaison to the National Guard Bureau.

During his address, Gyves read aloud a poem he had written, and the crowd was drawn in, listening intently as he spoke of why he serves the nation.Gyves also told students how well this high school stands up among others throughout the United States. "Shaker had given me quite an edge," said the lieutenant.

Other inductees include B. Holly Broadbent, Anne Cochran, Derek Green, Geoffery Mearns, Carol Pineau, Dan Polster, Kenneth Rainin, Joe Solo and Robert Zimmer.

Victoria Fydrych and Emily Gross-Rosenblatt

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Two Shaker seniors, Katherine Foster and Harlan King, were honored as National Achievement Semifinalists. They are among just 1,400 students who became Semifinalists out of approximately 140,000 who enter the National Achievement Scholarship Competition, which honors African-American students who earn top scores on the PSAT.

- Brianna Blackwood-Mallory, Jennifer Chisholm and Wesley Lowery were named National Achievement Commended Students. Approximately 3,000 other students also earned the honor.

- Nineteen seniors were named National Merit Commended Students. Hartley Brody, Natalia Cabrera, Joshua Davidson, Alexandra Dimeff, Eden Engel-Rebitzer, Katherine Foster, Ethan Gates, Claire Hall, Sam Miller, Kirsten Nedrud, Robert Owen, Kate Ryan, Allison Scharfstein, Peter Schiraldi, Kathryn Spielman, Robert Sweeney, Viveca Tress, Greg Van Lunteren and Sam Weir. They join roughly 34,000 other seniors across the country. The designation of Commended Student is one step below that of Semifinalist.

- Thirty-nine students, representing nearly 11 percent of the class of 2008, were honored at least once.

Compiled by Michael Cowett

LITTLE ROCK LEGEND VISITS

•School-integration pioneer emphasizes the choice to learn

BY WESLEY LOWERY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Su Dong • The Shakerite

DR. TERRENCE ROBERTS addresses students in the small auditorium on Oct. 17. Roberts was a member of the Little Rock Nine who integrated Central High School in 1957.

The 100 or so students who attended the Oct. 11 Small Auditorium session with Dr. Terrence Roberts received more than a curriculum-free class period; instead, they were challenged to reconsider the importance of their education.

"People who make excuses for not achieving need to have their vision expanded," said Roberts, one of nine African-Americans who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas under military escort in 1957. "The choices you make today will dictate your range of options tomorrow."

Roberts, 65, spent more than three and a half hours talking with students about his experiences, present-day race relations and the importance of education. After speaking with history teacher Andi Glickman's Human Rights and Conflict class, Roberts spent two periods in the auditorium with a diverse group of students composed of Minority Achievement Committee Sisters, Student Group on Race Relations members and American Experience students.

> "We would not be in this room together without Dr. Roberts. . . without his experience."
>
> Michael Griffith
> Principal

Despite the wide-ranging discussion, education remained Roberts' most reiterated point. After discussing issues such as the achievement gap and peer-to-peer racism, Roberts, now department chair of psychology at Antioch University, described his frustration after being turned away from Central High School on the first day.

"I had no idea [of the historical impact] initially," said Roberts, "I just wanted to go to school."

Roberts implored students to play a more active role in their own learning. "You know what you need to learn. . . you have responsibility for your own education," he said.

Principal Michael Griffith introduced Roberts and described the opportunity to share the stage with the historical icon as an "unbelievable honor."

"We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us," said Griffith, who added, "We would not be in this room together without Dr. Roberts. . . without his experience."

According to Roberts, 150 African-American students originally volunteered to attend the all-white Central High School following the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling, which declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. However, due to threats of violence, the group dwindled to single digits by the time school began. That group made history as the Little Rock Nine.

"[The Little Rock Nine] showed that [Brown v. Board of Education] was not just words, but putting them into action," said Joe Houser, an African-American History teacher who noted that it set the precedent for federal involvement in civil rights violations in public schools.

As Roberts approached Central High School on the first day, he encountered not only a mob but also the Arkansas National Guard, which had been deployed by Governor Orval Faubus to prevent integration. "Having hundreds and hundreds of angry people screaming at you is quite frightening," Roberts said. President Dwight Eisenhower intervened, taking charge of the National Guard and sending federal troops to escort the nine students into the building for the remainder of the year.

Following Roberts' junior year, Faubus closed all Little Rock public schools to prevent further integration. Roberts moved to California and attended Los Angeles High School for his senior year. After graduating in 1959, he received a bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University and a master's degree in social welfare from the University of California. In 1976, Roberts earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Southern Illinois University.

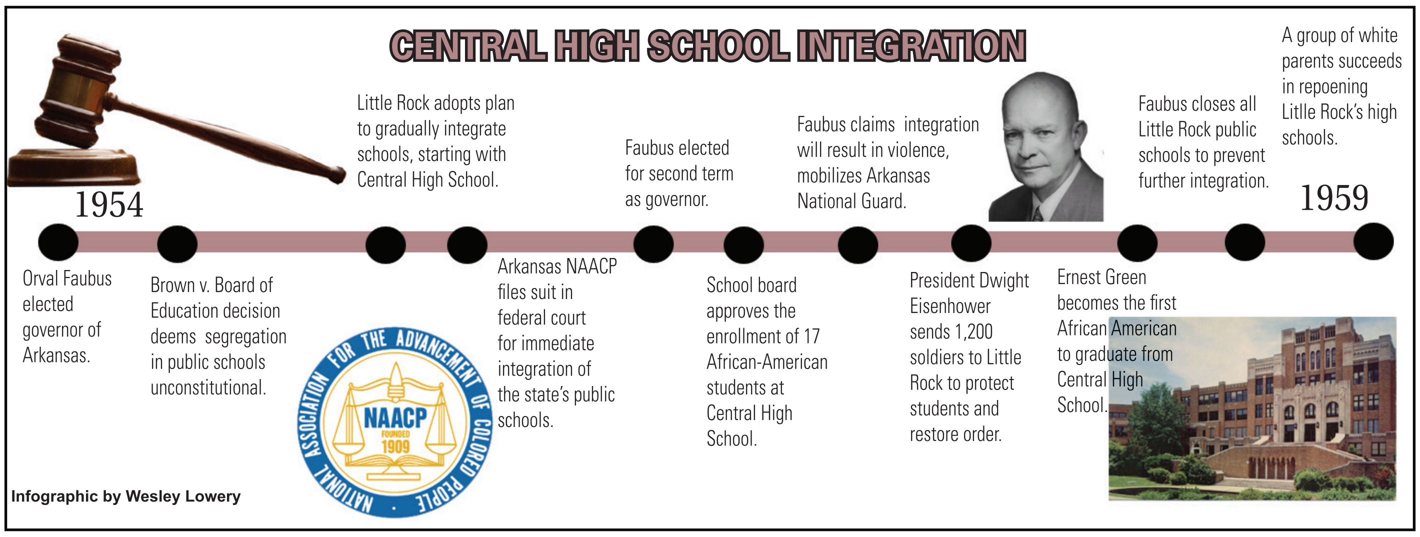
Roberts then spent almost an hour and a half fielding a wide range of student questions. He described himself as a satirist, calling himself a "modern-day Socrates." Roberts' satire, as well as his passion, surfaced again midway through the question-answer session when Griffith asked him how he felt about hot topic at Shaker: use of the n-word.

In response Roberts exclaimed, "Principal Griffith won't say it. . . even the principal of Shaker Heights High School won't say the word *nigger*." Roberts went on to explain that he finds nothing inherently wrong with the word, despite the painful connotations it may invoke for some. "We create a linguistic fiction," said Roberts, "words have power if you infuse them with power."

Junior Ariana Smith disagrees with Roberts. "It is more than just a word," said Smith, a MAC Sister who attended two of thesessions. "Even if it doesn't hurt you personally, the word still shouldn't be used."

Roberts' appearance was due largely to Glickman and her involvement with Facing History and Ourselves, a non-profit organization that trains teachers to instruct students about racism and anti-Semitism

Roberts concluded by saying that we must handle underlying racial tensions resulting from "decades of institutionalized racism" before we can continue to make progress in race relations. "If we can kill the spider, there will be no need to treat the bites," he said.


CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL INTEGRATION
1954
Orval Faubus elected governor of Arkansas.
Brown v. Board of Education decision deems segregation in public schools unconstitutional.
Little Rock adopts plan to gradually integrate schools, starting with Central High School.
Arkansas NAACP files suit in federal court for immediate integration of the state's public schools.
Faubus elected for second term as governor.
School board approves the enrollment of 17 African-American students at Central High School.
Faubus claims integration will result in violence, mobilizes Arkansas National Guard.
President Dwight Eisenhower sends 1,200 soldiers to Little Rock to protect students and restore order.
Ernest Green becomes the first African American to graduate from Central High School.
Faubus closes all Little Rock public schools to prevent further integration.
A group of white parents succeeds in repoening Little Rock's high schools.
1959
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
NAACP FOUNDED 1909

Infographic by Wesley Lowery

Off the Street

YOUR TAKE

How do you feel about the content of Terrence Roberts' Oct. 17 speech?

"I agree with the point he made, that race is not a classification."

Duane Horton
sophomore

"I agree with everything he said about appreciating education."

Sydney Connors
sophomore

"I expected a historical account, and he gave more of an inspirational speech."

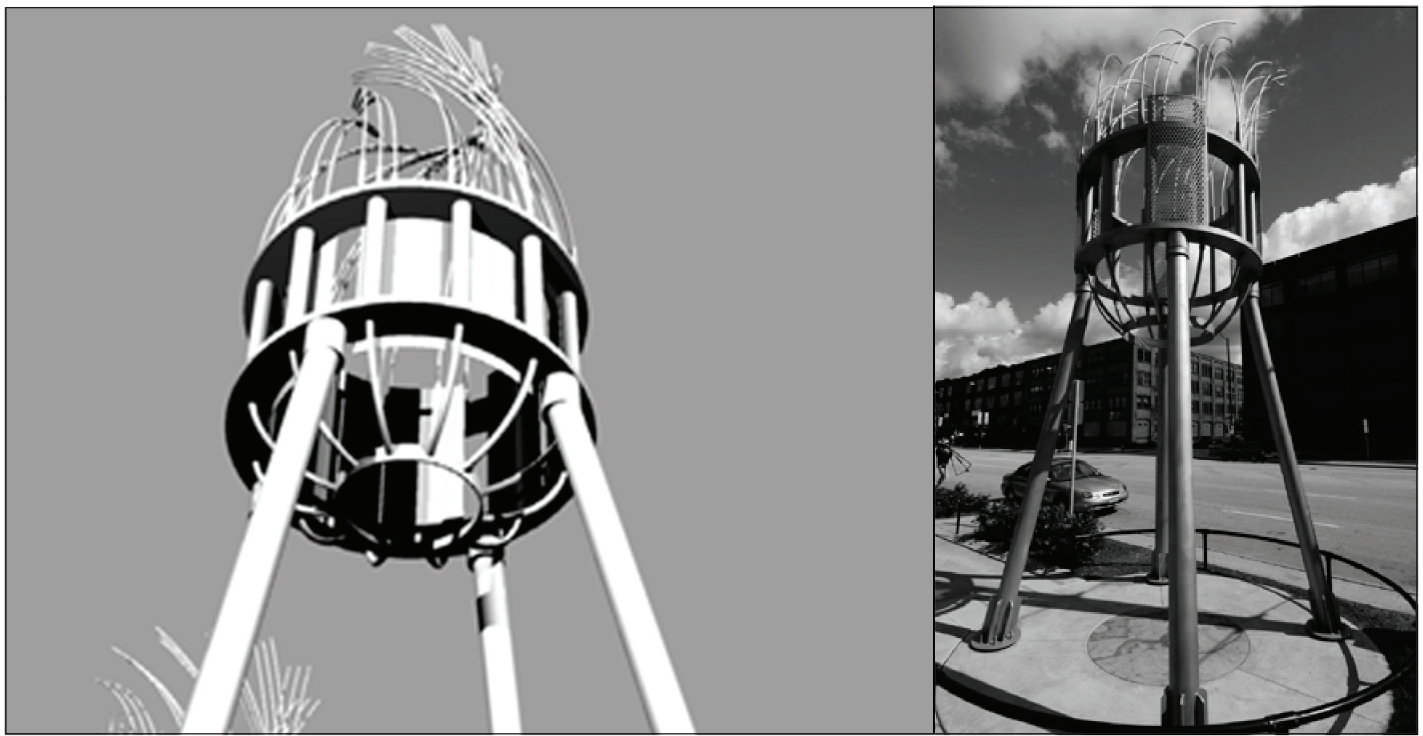
Kaitlin Hart
senior

"Some of what he was saying was a little strong, but he made good points."

Blair Allen
sophomore

BELOVED POTTER CHARACTER BROUGHT OUT OF BROOM CLOSET

Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling stunned fans Oct. 19 when she announced in a question and answer session at Carnegie Hall that a major character in the series, former headmaster Albus Dumbledore, is gay. According to the Associated Press, Rowling explained that Dumbledore had fallen for Gellert Grindelwald, another wizard, as a youth. Grindelwald later became Dumbledore's arch-nemesis. Her announcement was greeted with gasps, noted the AP, which were quickly followed by a standing ovation. The positive reaction prompted Rowling to say, "I would have told you earlier if I knew it would make you so happy."



Courtesy of Stephen Manka

SKETCH TO REALITY: Stephen Manka's "Watering Tower" sculpture on Superior Avenue Downtown is part of the Cleveland Public Art series of "Urban Lanterns."

Public display of local art enlivens Cleveland

BY KELSEY DEFOREST
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

The brain drain that has long plagued the economies of Cleveland and northeast Ohio takes its toll on the region's arts as well. Many Cleveland-born artists do not feel that they can survive, much less thrive, in "C-town," which results in an artistic exodus out of the city. A local organization is working to combat this exodus.

"We believe that design plays an important role in the way a city looks, feels and functions." This is the main vision of the local non-profit organization Cleveland Public Art and they hope to achieve this goal by installing art in public spaces throughout Cleveland.

According to executive director, Greg Peckham, CPA was started in 1984 to bring artists' works "outside the gallery walls and into the city's streets."

"The original intention was to do one temporary installation in the [Warehouse] District," Peckham stated in an email interview. "One thing led to another, and within a few years, CPA's scope expanded beyond the Warehouse District's boundaries and beyond the usual definition of public art to include a broad range of programs and projects downtown and in the city's neighborhoods."

Repeated contributor and Shaker alum, Stephen Manka ('89), was drawn into CPA through one of their many design competitions that are open to local artists. "I responded to my first competition three years ago and was awarded the job to design a sculptural fence," Manka stated in an email interview. "I continued responding to proposals for various competitions and picked up several other projects."

CPA works to foster local artists in the hopes of preventing the departure of budding talent from Cleveland, according to Peckham.

"Cleveland often turns out amazing artists. They too often need to move to places where they can make better money – New York, Chicago, San Francisco," said Manka.

Julia Murphy, a senior in Advanced Placement Portfolio, feels that "Cleveland has a lot of opportunities for art," but also said, "If I went to art school, I would probably go to New York. I think there are a lot more opportunities there."

Similarly Alex Anthes ('07), a current student at the Cleveland Institute of Art, said, "Cleveland has got a decent scene." She added that Cleveland is a great place to begin an art career and education. "There are a lot of kids that end up graduating and going to cities like Chicago and New York where there is more happening," Anthes said.

"I find Cleveland to be a perfect place to live and work," Manka stated. ". . . the attitude of city planners in Cleveland is to make the downtown [area] a great place to be, to live. Like other American cities, Cleveland is

Jazz trio, classic rock band entertain Cuda's talents

BY KELSEY DEFOREST
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Not too far from home, a talented band of jazzers is making a splash. The source of this music may be a little surprising. Social studies teacher Tony Cuda, along with his brother, Chris Cuda, and friend Paul Stranahan form an "original progressive jazz" band. The trio, consisting of guitar, bass and drums, combines jazz with rock.

How long have you been playing your respective instruments?

TC: "We have all been playing for over 30 years (but not together)."

How did the band get together?

TC: "My brother and I got tired of playing in copy bands and decided to find a drummer and do our own thing."

Who came up with the name CuDa? How?

TC: "I thought it would be good to name it after me and my brother because people in the music business and around town already know us from other bands we have been in. This way, it would already be recognizable."

Who or what are your top five musical influences?

TC: "Progressive rock from the early '70s like Yes & King Crimson, Jazz like Miles Davis, Weather Report and Alan Holdsworth."

What is your least favorite type of music?

TC: "Hip hop, country pop."

Are any of you in any other bands?

TC: "Yes. Chris and I play in a classic rock band about three times a month. Paul has his own jazz trio."

Are there any other records currently in the works?

TC: "We just recorded a CD in August and it should be finished by the end of the year."

Do you have any upcoming performances?

TC: "Check out our website." [www.myspace.com/chriscudamusic.]

What is your favorite part about performing live?

TC: "When it all comes together!"

Courtesy of Chris Cuda

HISTORY TEACHER TONY Cuda plays bass guitar in a performance by his jazz trio, CuDa.

Theatre fulfills mission, deserves full support

KELSEY DEFOREST

On the back of our planners, a place that few students ever glance, the district mission describes its goals in educating students: to produce students who are "prepared to make ethical decisions" and "confident, competent communicators, skillful in problem solving, capable of creative thinking; who have career motivation and a knowledge of our global and multicultural society."

I see no department that so efficiently works toward these goals as the Theatre Arts Department. Despite the department's excellence in this area, the district continually eats away at theatre spaces and teachers; most recently in the lack of replacement following the resignation of theatre and English teacher David Schiopota. Although the Large Auditorium is being renovated -- and this will benefit the department immensely -- this renovation will also have enormous benefits for the district and community at large.

Shaker theater students, myself included, have learned the lessons expressed in the mission statement, and many others, as key points in the success of productions as well as in the outside world. Students are shown from their first class or production forward that each of their decisions can have an immense effect on a company, both positively and negatively.

The students are taught to think before each action and analyze the others' decisions to better understand what that person was trying to accomplish and how that decision affected the situation.

Students are also taught the importance of communication of all forms. Face-to-face communication is emphasized as vitally important to unite a company and also to prevent confusion. Writing is also highlighted through analytical papers, playwriting and even quick notes between production students that teach conciseness.

Creative thinking scarcely needs to be touched upon in the discussion of one of the arts. But it's worth noting that theater study enhances problem solving skills as students confront issues such as mounting a show without the Large Auditorium and last-minute emergencies such as when a lighting board fails half an hour before a show.

Each student is guided to find his or her passions and skills. I know that when I leave this school, my experiences in theatre, such as résumé creation, job interviews and practice in administration and management, will benefit me measurably when entering college and the work force.

Finally, in the mishmash of cultures represented at the high school, the theatre department stands out as incredibly diverse and accepting, teaching its students open-mindedness.

Despite the theatre department's role in furthering the district's mission, administrators seem blind to these benefits as they prevent the theatre department from growing and make it increasingly difficult to maintain the level of excellence that has become traditional. Students come to the Shaker Heights City School District because of our renowned theatre department, one that is recognized nationally for its superior productions, unique style and rich curriculum. That kind of credit to the district deserves the support and staff it requires to not only sustain but also improve.

FUN FACTS ABOUT SUSHI

- The method of storing raw fish inside rice became widespread in China starting in the A.D. 100s, although the Chinese usually disposed of the rice before eating the fish. Sushi caught on during the 600s in Japan when the Japanese found they liked the taste of rice and fish together.

- The most well-known sushi is called maki-zushi. In this popular version, rice, seafood, vegetables and garnishes are layered on a sheet of seaweed. The seaweed is then rolled up into a cylinder and sliced into miniature rolls. Other types of sushi include nigiri-zushi, in which rice is molded into a rectangle and is topped with raw seafood and wasabi; and chirashi-zushi, where toppings and garnishes are sprinkled on top of the rice.

Compiled by Simone Duval and Colin Jackson from Encyclopædia Britannica and World Book Online

Matsu becomes SASA on the Square

BY COLIN JACKSON
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Fresh avocado, raw crab and rice all wrapped in seaweed. The California Roll is far from the typical all-American dinner, but Matsu has been serving the sushi dish to pleased customers for the past seven years.

The restaurant hopes to continue its success in a new location and with a new name – SASA.

SASA, which means bamboo, will be located in Shaker Square. The restaurant will be more relaxed and less traditional than Matsu. Despite these changes, Scott Kim, Matsu's executive chef, will continue his role at SASA.

SASA will feature an Izakaya style of dining. According to Kim, Izakaya is an appetizer-based style of eating. Instead of serving large meals, SASA will dish out three to four smaller-sized portions. "It allows people to try different things, but not commit to the large family-size meal," said Kim.

Like many local businesses in the area, Kim looked to Shaker Heights High School as a pool for young and eager employees. "Shaker employees are simply the best employees to have," he said.

Senior Holly Bokar has worked at Matsu for the past year as a hostess. "[Matsu] was the first place I had ever had sushi, so I was really excited to be working there," Bokar said.

A sushi chef-in-training, senior Max Celeste has worked at Matsu since January and assists with some meal preparations. "I love working there," Celeste said. Both Celeste and Bokar will continue to work for Kim at SASA.

Bokar cites the lack of new customers as the reason for Matsu's change in location and name. "We were basically serving regulars, the same people who had been coming there since the opening of the Chagrin location."

Sophomore Brooke Dingess agreed that Matsu's location was less than ideal. "[Matsu serves] good food, but come on, it is right next to Wendy's."

Kim closed Matsu Sept. 10 in preparation for the opening of SASA in late October. "Shaker Square is simply a better traffic location," Kim said. "Shaker Square is quickly becoming a impressive restaurant district, and SASA is proud to be a part of that."

Over the last seven years Matsu has collected awards such as "Best Sushi" from AOL City Guide 2006 and "Best Sushi in Cleveland" by Audience Choice-City-search in 2001.

"We are not just serving food, we are serving the community," Kim said.

Rockin' Sushi Rock

BY ROBERT O'CONNOR
MANAGING EDITOR

The modern décor at Sushi Rock is more reminiscent of a disco club than an upscale sushi restaurant. This unusual style carries into almost all their sushi dishes.

The calamari appetizer was coated with a spicy, tangy sauce that rivals the traditional New England style. Thought was given to presentation as each dish was carefully topped with multicolored fish eggs. The best roll was the Sushi Rock Tempura Roll -- filled with crabstick, tuna, salmon and asparagus and then fried and served slightly warm. The only downside of the restaurant is that the small portions and high prices can make your stomach or wallet feel empty, and sometimes both. The best deal comes on Typhoon Thursdays, half-off sushi night, but be careful -- not all rolls are included on the reduced menu. Also, because of the popularity of Sushi Rock's, be sure to make reservations in advance.

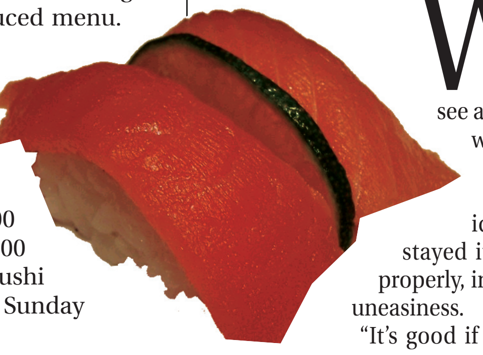
Overall, the restaurant presents a cool New York atmosphere and expertly crafted sushi. Sushi Rock is located at 2101 Richmond Road in Beachwood, and their phone number is (216) 378-9595. Sushi Rock is open during the week Monday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Friday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Saturday, Sushi Rock opens at 5:00 p.m. and stays open until 12:00 a.m.; Sunday they open at 5:00 p.m. and close at 10:00 p.m.

SUSHI ROLL BY ROLL

A SUSHI ROCK chef prepares two house specialties at the bar on Tsunami Thursday.

John Fletcher • The Shakerite

Prepackaged fish: worth the risk



BY KELSEY DEFOREST
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Walking past the sushi section in the local grocery store prompts divergent responses. Some spy dinner among the nestled cartons. Others see an unsavory meal lurking in the cooler, waiting to assault your stomach.

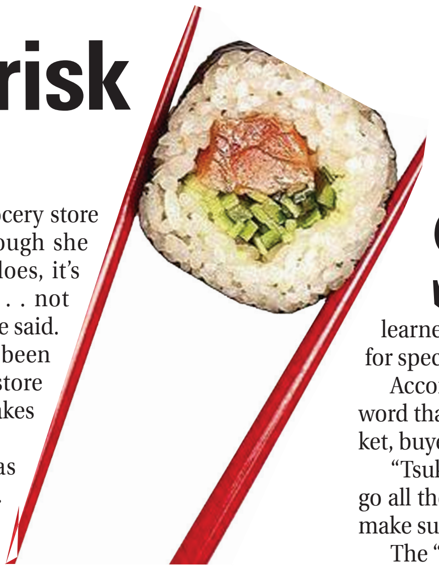
Due to its raw fish content, sushi bears the stigma of food poisoning. The idea that grocery story sushi has overstayed its welcome or hasn't been refrigerated properly, in most cases below 40 degrees, enhances uneasiness.

"It's good if it doesn't give you salmonella," Junior Nick Hahn said.

To Junior Alesha Holloway, all grocery store sushi is just plain disgusting. Although she doesn't eat sushi often, when she does, it's never from a grocery store. "It is . . . not from, like, a real Asian restaurant," she said.

Junior Matthew Laird has never been a sushi fan. But he admits grocery store sushi tempts him on occasion. "It makes me want to give it a try," he said.

Caitlin Walker, a sophomore, has already given into the temptation. "Depending on where you go, it's good. Especially from Giant Eagle,"



Secrets to rolling perfect maki-zushi sushi

BY SIMONE DUVAL
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Sophomore Hanna Wrenn observes a centuries-old tradition every time she prepares dinner.

The art of making sushi, a culinary technique dating back as far 100 A.D., was passed down to Wrenn via her mother. Wrenn learned when she was younger and now uses her expertise to prepare sushi for special occasions and family gatherings.

According to Wrenn, the best sushi has the particular flavor of "tsukiji," a word that derives its name from the Tsukiji Market in Japan. At this food market, buyers can purchase the freshest fish available.

"Tsukiji means the freshest fish flavor possible. In Tokyo, you can actually go all the way back to where the fishermen are selling the fish on the dock to make sure you get the freshest [fish]," Wrenn said.

The "tsukiji" flavor is also a primary factor in determining Wrenn's favorite place to go for sushi. Some restaurants will freeze the fish they purchase, defrosting it later for sushi; however, this results in a watery, less flavorful dish. Pacific East, Wrenn's preferred restaurant, located in Cleveland Heights at Coventry and Mayfield, uses only freshly caught fish.

When Wrenn doesn't dine at Pacific East, she makes her own sushi rolls at home. Using "nori," or seaweed sheets placed on top of a bamboo panel, Wrenn layers vinegared rice on top of the seaweed. She then spreads raw fish, vegetables, crab and other toppings over the rice. Very carefully, Wrenn rolls up the bamboo sheet with the seaweed sheet, rice and toppings inside; this compresses the ingredients, and when the bamboo sheet is pulled forward and out from under the seaweed sheet, the sushi roll holds together. However, Wrenn said that if she didn't roll the bamboo and seaweed combination tightly enough, everything would fall out.

According to Wrenn, the most important thing to keep in mind when making sushi is restraint. "Don't overstuff it," she said.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

If you haven't registered to vote yet, it's too late to sign up for the local election, but there is still time to register to vote in the March 2008 presidential primaries. You can download a voter registration card from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us/votinginfo/register.htm. Fill it out and make sure to mail it to the Board of Elections at least 30 days before the primaries. Don't forget that if you are 17 years old it is possible to vote in a primary as long as you will be 18 by the general election.

Vulgarity-free 'Victory'

WESLEY
LOWERY

In today's music scene there are typically only two types of hip-hop artists -- those who are profane and those who are sexually explicit as well as profane. At least that was true until this past August, when Grammy-winning rap artist Chamillionaire announced that his upcoming sophomore album, "Ultimate Victory," would be obscenity-free.

That's right, the 17-track, 78-minute disc contains zero bitches, zero hoes, zero n-words and, unlike the vast majority of hip-hop albums, no parental advisory label. The self-proclaimed "Mixtape Messiah" was even able to convince guest artists Slick Rick, Pimp C and Lil' Wayne to keep it clean, an accomplishment that would make even Tipper Gore proud.

While most of today's top lyricists argue that the top consumers of rap and hip-hop music -- white suburban males -- would much rather hear obscenity-drenched accounts of rape, murder and other glorified aspects of the "thug life," Chamillionaire's solid opening record sales argue the opposite.

The album debuted at number eight on the Billboard 200 charts, selling more than 70,000 records in its first week in stores.

Even more impressive, "Ultimate Victory" peaked at the third spot on the Billboard Rap Album chart, behind only Kanye West's "Graduation" and 50 Cent's "Curtis."

Asked why he was willing to forsake the overtly obscene and sexualized status quo in the hip-hop industry, Chamillionaire told reporters that he based the decision to exclude obscenity from the album on his observation of white fans singing along to the n-word in his rhymes.

A decade ago, the last things on the mind of a platinum selling rap artist were the social ramifications of his or her lyrics. However, in today's post-Imus world, and as record sales of both rap and hip-hop albums reach all-time lows, rappers are being forced to embrace a long-lost concept among modern musicians: creativity.

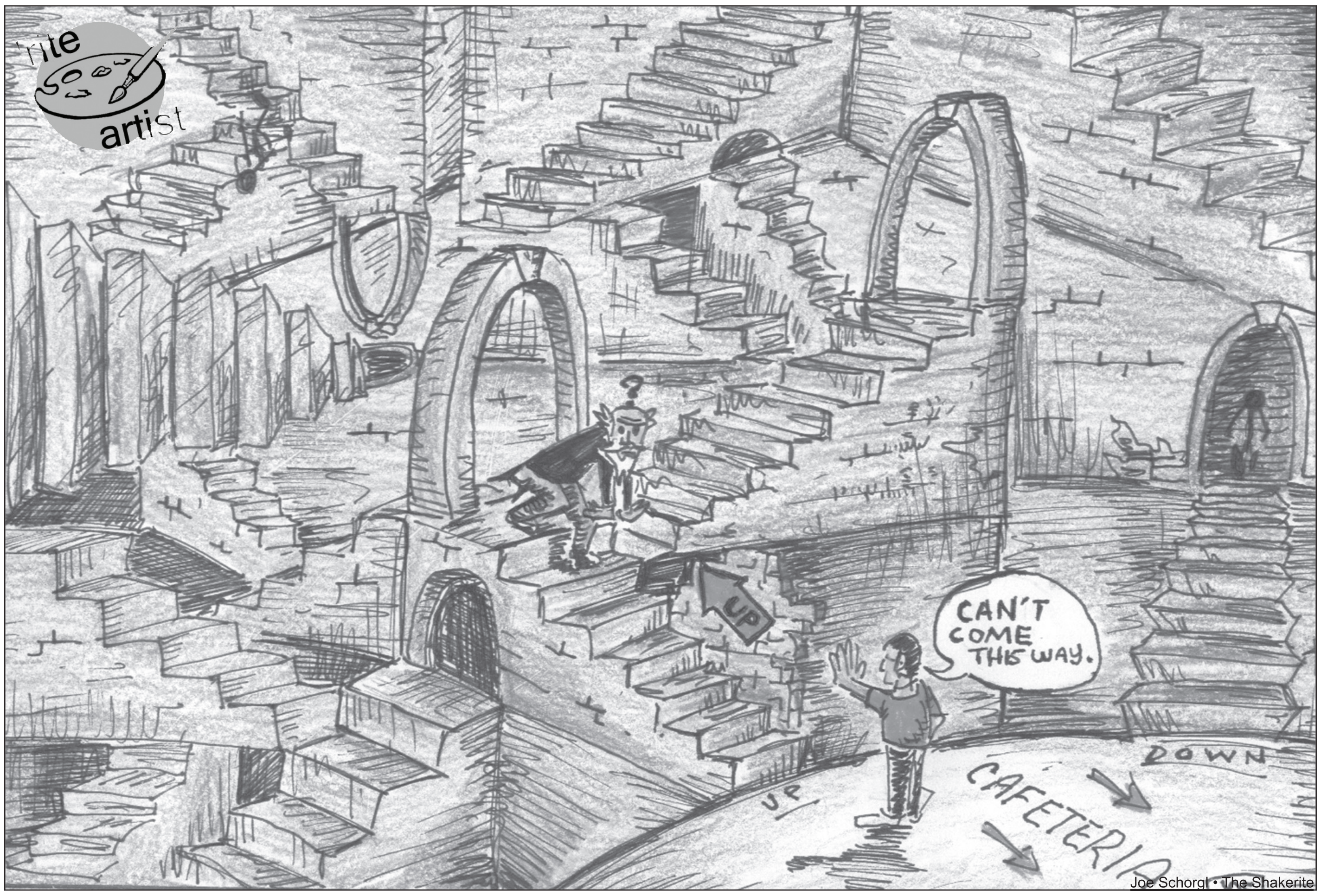
Unfortunately for Chamillionaire, not everyone in the rap community was eager to embrace his originality. Possibly in search of the beef-of-the-week, rapper 50 Cent, known recently more for facilitating feuds than for selling records, told Spin magazine, "Let him go sell gospel records if he's so f-----' righteous."

However, Chamillionaire is not alone in his efforts to purge the rap industry of the prominence of profanity. Rap mogul Master P recently announced plans to start an obscenity-free record label appropriately titled "Take a Stand Records."

While finding PG-rated success in an industry notorious for X-rated content will prove a difficult task, "Ultimate Victory" is more than a step in the right direction.

Chamillionaire uses his sophomore album as a medium through which to provide social commentary on everything from TV media to industry groupies as well as jabs at Bill O'Reilly and Al Sharpton.

By providing meaningful lyrics to balance out the heavy bass line, Chamillionaire takes hip-hop back to its roots as an art form. Though we are far from the days of Grandmaster Flash and Run DMC, maybe all that is needed to return rap to its 1980s prominence is a cleansing of its mouth with a bar of soap.



Joe Schorgl • The Shakerite

LEIKEN FOR MAYOR

'rite idea

• Vice mayor held every elective office in Shaker Heights

Leiken

A quality mayor must understand every facet of the local government. No candidate meets this requirement better than Earl Leiken. Vice mayor under exiting mayor Judy Rawson, Leiken has also occupied every other elective office in Shaker Heights. To add to his depth of experience, Leiken offers realistic and positive ideas for the community. The vice mayor's four main goals -- to attract and retain residents, improve real estate, grow the tax base and revitalize the neighborhoods -- are crucial to Shaker Heights' success. While they seem far-reaching and broad, Leiken provides examples to back up all of his claims and has a clear plan for their execution, including merging services with other communities to cut costs and seeking outside money to fund projects such as the Van Aken-Warrensville redevelopment.

With his experience and comprehensive plan of action, Leiken will be an effective mayor.

• Foster, Moore, Williams, Butze for Shaker Heights City Council

Foster

With the most well-rounded experience among the candidates, incumbent Al Foster is an obvious choice for city council. A seven-year council veteran, Foster has served as the vice mayor of Shaker and chaired numerous city committees, including the Community Life and Health Committee. He was instrumental in the creation of the skate park at Thornton and wants to continue create more recreational spaces, most specifically a basketball court, for Shaker's youth.

Moore

A 25-year resident and City Council incumbent, Nancy Moore provides council with a supreme knowledge of the schools. Previously, Moore was one of only four Board of Education candidates to successfully run unendorsed as an independent. In addition, Moore's full-time commitment to council during her last term allowed her to serve as a community liaison. Moore plans on fostering a cooperative relationship between the Board of Education and City Council.

Butze

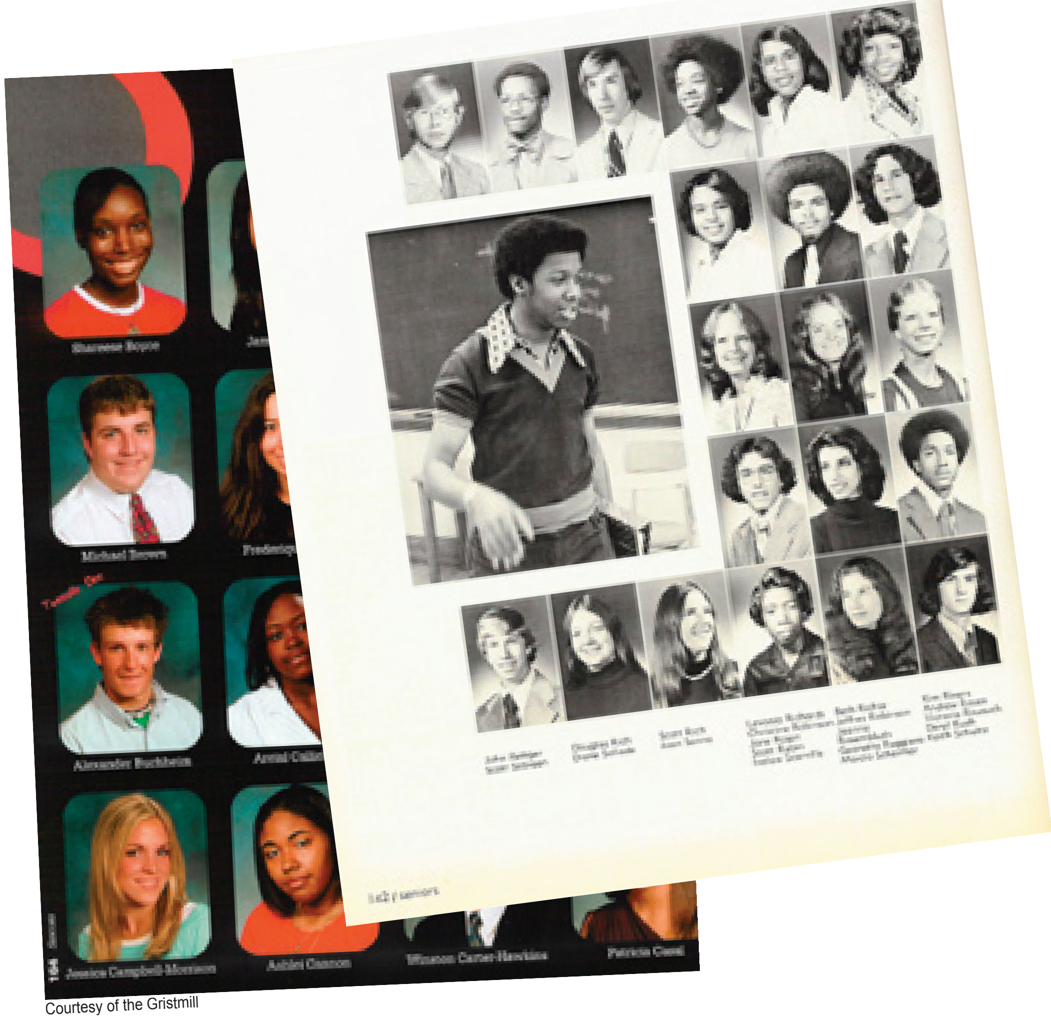
A lifetime Shaker resident, product of the Shaker schools and veteran police officer, Kenneth Butze seems truly invested in making Shaker a great place to live. Butze offers a fresh perspective and wants to focus on long-term solutions for the community's problems, not just quick fixes. Among his goals, Butze wants to relocate the police station and update its communication system. He also supports income tax exemption for all city employees.

Williams

The need to broaden the tax base is one of the most pressing issues facing Shaker Heights. Incumbent councilman Earl Williams provides the best leadership in this aspect of our city's government. Williams was the first chairman of the city's economic development advisory committee and has a background in both municipal law and finance. In addition, his work on council has helped bring University Hospitals to the vacated OfficeMax headquarters.

INTEGRATION ONLY PART OF SOLUTION

•Terrence Roberts' message spurs analysis of achievement



Courtesy of the Gristmill

MOVING ON FROM PAST SUCCESSES

Terrence Roberts' appearance at the high school Oct. 11 should reinvigorate dialogue concerning the privilege of education. As a member of the Little Rock Nine, Roberts recounted his experiences, including being turned away from Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas by the National Guard and later being escorted into the building by federal troops. These experiences provide a platform from which to resurrect the analysis of how far Shaker has come since integration, and how far we have yet to go. Groups such as Minority Achievement Committee Scholars were designed to bridge the so-called achievement gap by providing young minority students with role models from the student body. Shaker also set up the Student Group on Race Relations, a group run by high school students that encourages fourth and sixth grade students to discuss race and how it affects them. Yet once at the high school, white and black students part ways along academic lines, thus segregating the high school in a social manner if not by law. Secondly, Shaker will face federal sanctions, thanks to the No Child Left Behind Act, unless achievement improves among students of all racial, socio-economic and disability status. We need look inward and take action.

THE STUDENT BODY

Shaker needs to take Roberts' advocacy to heart. As a community we need to reiterate the message that education is not to be taken lightly. During an Editorial Board visit, City Councilman Earl Williams said, "Education is the foundation. The word is not getting out that education is key." Williams is right. Too many students take the school for granted and do not use its resources wisely. The fact that our community shoulders a greater tax burden so that we can attend an outstanding institution should be reason enough for us to strive for achievement. We need to stop skipping class, start doing assignments, pay attention and take advantage of the help available to us through conference period. High school, contrary to what the hallways may suggest, is not a place to hang out. It is a place to learn. If you don't want an education at this time, drop out and pursue a GED. Maybe in a few years you will be ready to further your formal education. But before you take this drastic step, remember the sacrifice individuals such as Terrence Roberts made to get an education at all.

THE ADMINISTRATION

The administration needs to stick with those students who are not achieving at the highest level. For our school to be both academically excellent and diverse, the administration must continually provide assistance until the whole school is able to succeed. This is necessary not only to meet the standard set by NCLB, but to also meet the standards the community holds dear. Shaker Heights is known across the nation as a school that has achieved diversity. If all students are not achieving, this statement is no longer true. Dr. Ann Spurrier, assistant principal, is one individual who is truly devoted to the achievement of all of Shaker students. The founder of the Fast Track program, head of the humanities team and curriculum director, Spurrier provides continuous "interventions," a helping hand to those students desperately in need of extra support in the classroom environment. Spurrier wants teachers to help students by understanding that, "It is not about, 'I taught; they didn't learn.' It's about, 'They didn't learn about it. What do I do now?' " This assistant principal is one of the many people in the high school propelling Shaker toward a more successful academic future for all students.

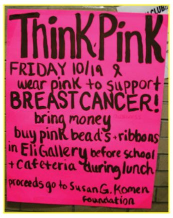
Seniors Soar to New Heights

Courtesy of the Gristmill

Infographic by Lena Newman

STUDENT COUNCIL SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER?

Student Council planned a "Think Pink" charity spirit day Oct. 19, encouraging the student body to wear pink and buy ribbons for 50 cents in support of breast cancer research. However, signs in the stairwells read "Support Breast Cancer!" causing some misinterpretation and confusion. Sophia Bellin-Warren, junior Student Council president, said the day was a success. "The goal was to get money, and we raised $150, so the signs don't matter," she said.



ThinkPink
FRIDAY 10/19
wear pink to support
BREAST CANCER!
bring money
buy pink bead's + ribbons
in Eli Gallery before school
+ cafeteria during lunch
proceeds go to Susan G. Komen Foundation

Su Dong • The Shakerite

PETE FERRIS SITS behind the wheel of the car he uses to instruct his in-car students. Ferris, an in-car instructor for Overbeke's School of Driving in Orange, is known to request Shaker students and admits to being "ticked off" when other driving instructors are assigned Shaker drivers.

OVERBEKE INSTRUCTOR KNOWS TALK OF TOWN

BY ADRIA KINNEY
THE BEAT EDITOR

Driving alone for the first time can be a nerve-wracking experience, but driving instructors such as Overbeke's School of Driving's Pete Ferris are there to make new drivers as comfortable with the open road as possible. A favorite among Shaker students, Ferris was eager to dish about his job, prime locations for speeding and especially his students, readily naming the scariest, funniest and most popular drivers from Shaker (don't bother looking for the names -- our lips are sealed).

How long have you been an in-car driver?

PF: About four and a half years.

What's the best part of your job?

PF: Meeting all of the different kids . . . it's fun to meet new people every week.

What's the funniest mistake new drivers make?

PF: Trying to pull out or back out when the car isn't on.

What's the worst experience you've ever had during an in-car?

PF: I've never had an accident, but lots of times kids pull out when other cars are coming and there have been a lot of close calls. A few times a deer has run out in front of a kid.

What's the best advice you could give to a new driver?

PF: Go slow. The kids at Shaker are pretty good about that . . . Orange drivers are way too fast. For some reason, they're the fastest drivers I've ever had.

So you've mentioned that Orange drivers go fast. Are there any other stereotypes?

PF: US drivers are always the best, and the worst drivers go to Hawken. Shaker drivers are much better than average, and I'm not just saying that. I would have to rank Shaker right behind US. I hate to do that, because I like Shaker better.

About how many of your students are Shaker students?

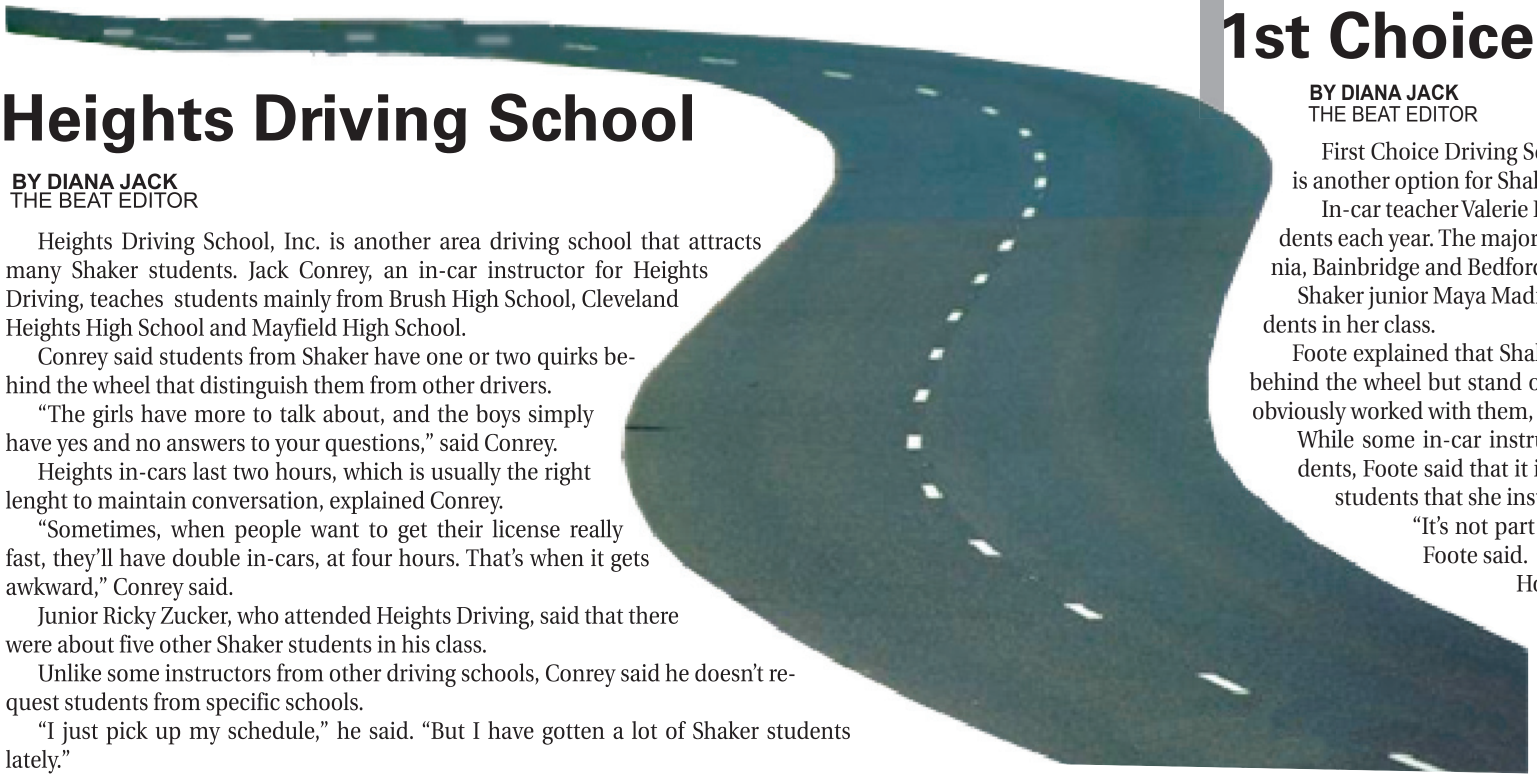
PF: I usually get about 30 Shaker kids per year that go to the high school, and a lot of others that go to HB or US. This summer, about 75 percent of the kids were from Shaker.

What would be your dream car?

PF: I'm not really a car person. As long as it gets from point A to point B, it's fine. Basically, I hate cars because they're just a big expense. As long as it's reliable, it's fine with me.

Where's the best place to speed in Shaker?

PF: South Woodland. It's wide, straight, and there aren't many hills. There's tons of room.



Heights Driving School

BY DIANA JACK
THE BEAT EDITOR

Heights Driving School, Inc. is another area driving school that attracts many Shaker students. Jack Conrey, an in-car instructor for Heights Driving, teaches students mainly from Brush High School, Cleveland Heights High School and Mayfield High School.

Conrey said students from Shaker have one or two quirks behind the wheel that distinguish them from other drivers.

"The girls have more to talk about, and the boys simply have yes and no answers to your questions," said Conrey.

Heights in-cars last two hours, which is usually the right lenght to maintain conversation, explained Conrey.

"Sometimes, when people want to get their license really fast, they'll have double in-cars, at four hours. That's when it gets awkward," Conrey said.

Junior Ricky Zucker, who attended Heights Driving, said that there were about five other Shaker students in his class.

Unlike some instructors from other driving schools, Conrey said he doesn't request students from specific schools.

"I just pick up my schedule," he said. "But I have gotten a lot of Shaker students lately."

1st Choice Driving School

BY DIANA JACK
THE BEAT EDITOR

First Choice Driving School, located on South Taylor Road and Cedar, is another option for Shaker students.

In-car teacher Valerie Foote said that she works with 15-20 Shaker students each year. The majority of the people she teaches hail from Macedonia, Bainbridge and Bedford.

Shaker junior Maya Madison said that there were three other Shaker students in her class.

Foote explained that Shaker drivers are about the same as everyone else behind the wheel but stand out due to their preparation. "The parents have obviously worked with them, so they're pretty well set," she said.

While some in-car instructors delve into the private lives of their students, Foote said that it is inappropriate to comment on the lives of the students that she instructs.

"It's not part of our job to offer [life] advice during in-cars," Foote said.

However, avoiding personal topics doesn't hinder her and students' abilities to keep up conversation.

"Sometimes the in-cars are two or even three hours long, depending on the students' driving abilities, but they're never awkward or too long," she said.

Punctuality problems

When it comes to senior tardiness, there's plenty of blame to go around

BY JULIA CELESTE
STAFF REPORTER

When a group of seniors was turned away from Homecoming for being late, tardiness at Shaker took on a new dimension.

The students, including Student Council members and Homecoming King Adam Sauerland, were denied admission because they arrived 20 minutes after the 9:30 p.m. cut-off. They said that despite having reservations, slow restaurant service delayed them.

"It was disappointing to look them in the face," Principal Michael Griffith said of turning the students away. The cut-off was intended to prevent drinking before the dance and was announced when ticket sales began.

Whether due to lax teacher discipline, school policy or a motivation shortage, being late is part of the high school's culture. A look at the high school's hallways after the tardy bell reveals that Shaker students take punctuality lightly.

"I can't even give a number," Assistant Principal Jasmine Clark said of the number of tardies this year. "The number can be in the thousands."

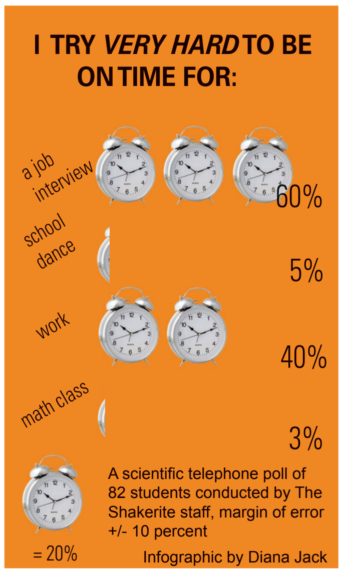
According to staff, seniors are the most frequent offenders. History teacher Bud Longo said the Homecoming turn-away was "no surprise." Longo, who teaches both freshmen and seniors, said tardiness is a much bigger problem among his senior students, especially at the start of the day.

"There is nothing worse than a first-period senior class," he said.

Erica Payne, a senior in Tony Cuda's American Government class, echoed Longo's observation. "We are late more than anyone else," she said.

To combat tardiness, Longo imposes a strict policy including grade reduction and after-school detentions. "It works for the majority of the students," he said.

Senior Lauren Chapman said seniors' impatience is to blame. "We're ready to get out," Chapman explained.



A scientific telephone poll of 82 students conducted by The Shakerite staff, margin of error +/- 10 percent

Infographic by Diana Jack

According to math teacher and senior project adviser Walter Slovikovski, student apathy about tardiness transfers to their senior projects. Slovikovski added that the chief complaint from senior project sponsors concerns seniors who arrive late to project assignments.

Tardiness in turning in forms also plagues senior project. Slovikovski said that he and fellow Senior Project supervisor Joel Rathbone have now established a paperwork extension policy, which will begin with the Feb. 6 deadline.

The question remains how and why students acquire the sense that Shaker deadlines – from arriving on time to class to submitting essential paperwork -- are suggestions rather than requirements. The answer may lie somewhere in the school's reaction to tardiness in general. The absence of uniform consequences for the first tardy onward may strengthen students' sense that being on time is not a priority.

Shaker's tardy policy comprises two steps, according to Griffith, who added that its success depends on teacher consistency. Longo believes his strategies of detention and grade reduction inspire timeliness in students. "They know that they face the punishment. It's a strong and effective deterrent," Longo said.

It's not that seniors aren't able to be on time. Paid employment seems to motivate at least average timeliness, according to Latarya Steele, a Heinen's manager who said Shaker students are not late "more than any other [students]."

Seniors are lobbying Griffith to alter the 9:30 p.m. dance cut-off rule. On Oct. 16 and Oct. 17, Griffith met with Student Council members, including those who were late to Homecoming. Some came away hopeful that the rule would change.

"He realized that the cut-off time wasn't working," Payne said.

Victoria Fydrych and Natalie Vicchio contributed to this story.

HEARD IN THE HALLS

Heard In The Halls

"He's an inflatable moose?"
10/1

History Teacher: "Don't let me confuse Hitler and Lincoln again."
10/17

"Oh, I thought you were, like, eating a bag of dirt."
10/15

Student #1: I would hope she would take care of her baby . . . what else would she do with it?
Student #2: . . Eat it.
10/11

"He went to an extra year of kindergarten because he couldn't count his ABCs."
10/4

"What shape would you like your cocaine in?"
10/18

"So if Spanish and English are Spanglish, then Spanish and German are Spermen?"
10/15

Student #1: Do we have school Nov. 9th?
Student #2: Yeah, isn't that like . . . Thanksgiving?
10/11]

"I'd rather just pretend to go to college."
10/15

"Well, Lil' Wayne has a whole bunch of those."
10/18

Giving thanks for more than vacation

If the Pilgrims and Native Americans visited us in 21st-century Shaker, they'd probably kill us (and each other) over we have made of holiday.

We've watered Thanksgiving Day down from a day of prayer and gratitude to God, each other and the Earth, to "Gee, my five-day weekend is a great time to beat level 157 of Halo III."

However, we see things a little differently than the Pilgrims, and in our own way, we have plenty to give thanks for, and we do so every day.

So, if you're at a loss for what to be grateful for at the dinner table on Thanksgiving, here's a list that might help.

DIANA JACK

five-day weekends
seconds, thirds, or 17ths of turkey
early-decision apps are over
drunken family members
the end of fall sports
hockey games starting
Christmas and winter break
the football team's outstanding ability
Black Friday
Grandma's pie
less than one year of Bush left
friends and parents (but mostly friends, right?)
Starbucks and Wendy's
"High School Musical"
two months to procrastinate until finals
new grading period (is this actually good?)
Kanye, Soulja Boy and Timbaland
field trips
birthdays (including mine!)
teachers who follow flex nights
your huge stash of candy from Halloween
another season of "Grey's/ House/Gossip Girl"
spellcheck
that the Indians went as far as they did
parents who go out of town
Facebook (let's be honest, you love it)
Lebron and Grady
Chipotle/Qdoba/ Que Tal
seniors: that you're almost done
juniors: that you're not doing college apps
sophomores: that you're not freshmen
freshmen: that . . . wait, nothing.
staff: that DASL hasn't crashed in the past 24 hours
the school: that we're no longer Solon High School!

(The construction company in charge of the school's renovation will to redo the glass-block wall in the cafeteria because of the controversy addressed in the October Shakerite.)

See? There are a lot of things that you may or may not be thankful for! But now that you've used up all the good ones on this year, here are some other things that you can be thankful for next year:

world peace
an end to world hunger
lost that five pounds
gained it back
school construction is finished (this is a stretch)
only four years of Hillary? Obama? Steven Colbert?

So despite the apathy shown by teenagers everywhere, there are a number of things that we actually do care about. While they may be few and kind of non-traditional, the objects of our gratitude give us something to talk about while the family is staring at us at dinner, waiting for an intelligent response to the question "So what are you thankful for, Junior?"

DOOR CLOSES ON RAIDERS' FALL SPORTS SEASON

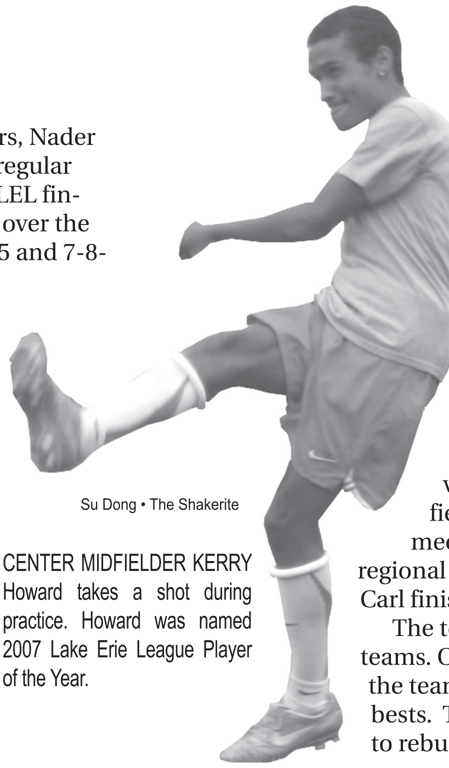
Men's soccer

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

As the third head coach in three years, Nader Soliman led his team to an 11-4-1 regular season record and a second place LEL finish. The record is an improvement over the last two years, as the team went 8-11 in 2005 and 7-8-2 in 2006.

While the Raiders did make a sizeable improvement record and performance wise, they faced a substantially weaker schedule this year. The most talented teams on the schedule were Mentor, Chagrin, North Olmsted and Berea, and the Raiders compiled an 0-3-1 record against them.

> "We had a good season for how weakly we played in the preseason. Next year looks promising."
>
> Ryan Cristal
> junior



Su Dong • The Shakerite

CENTER MIDFIELDER KERRY Howard takes a shot during practice. Howard was named 2007 Lake Erie League Player of the Year.

Men's cross country

BY JOSH CURRY
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Losing leaders and top runners Terrence Hill and John Gregg due to graduation, the men's cross country team ran through a difficult, winless season. While placing third in the Lake Erie League meet, 17 runners produced personal bests.

A strong core of junior runners, led by Michael Carl, showed potential for a strong upcoming season. Carl seems to have stepped up and has begun to fill the void left by the graduation of state qualifier Gregg. Carl finished 19th at the district meet at Edgewater Park, qualifying him for the regional meet. At the regional meet at Boardman, Carl finished 68th out of 127 runners.

The team finished seventh overall out of 14 teams. Over the course of the year, everyone on the team improved on their time and set personal bests. This year, however, can only be chalked up to rebuilding.

Mike Young • The Shakerite

SENIOR TENNIS PLAYER Claire Gustafson serves the ball during the Lake Erie League tournament. The women won the LEL title Sept. 27.

Women's tennis

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

One year after losing its first Lake Erie League crown in 10 years, the women's tennis team found its way back to the top. After losing to Mentor last season, the Raiders fought back this year, overcoming an LEL tournament rainout to pick up their 20th title. The Raiders were able to run the table in regular season play, leading to their declaration as champions by the LEL coaches.

Despite regaining the LEL title, no members of the team were able to advance past the first round of the district tournament, after sending the doubles team of Lauren Holloway and Amanda Polster to the state tournament last season.

Su Dong • The Shakerite

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS Whitney Livingston, Natalia Cabrera and Bridget Mearns warm up.

Women's cross country

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Winning the Lake Erie League championship for the first time in Shaker history, the women's cross country team dominated this season. Senior captain Natalia Cabrera and sophomore Whitney Livingston, placing second and third respectively, led the team to the prestigious title.

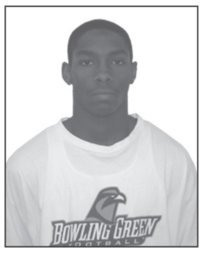
The team was ranked in the state coaches poll for the first time in its history, rising as high as 17th Division I. The team finished fourth at the district meet at Edgewater Park, qualifying for the regional meet Oct. 27. The team finished seventh out of 16 teams at Boardman and Cabrera and Livingston qualified for the state meet Nov. 3.

Shaker's top 6 fall impact athletes

Julian Bruell

Became the first Shaker golfer to qualify for the state tournament since 1969. Finished second at the district tournament, finished second at Lake Erie League tournament.

For more information on Bruell's accomplishments this fall, turn to page 16.



Perez Ashford

Set single season records for receptions with 53, receiving yards with 898 and touchdowns with 10. Set career record for receiving yards with 1,460.

Natalia Cabrera

State meet qualifier. Finished 10th at the district meet with a time of 19:38, her fastest time of the year.

Kerry Howard

Lake Erie League Player of the Year. 36 points, 15 goals scored, six assists.

Caitlin Kempton

Northeast Ohio Girls' Golf League Player of the Year. Personal best 9-hole round of 40 vs. Mayfield.

Maddie Williams

Led field hockey team in scoring with 28 points, 18 goals scored, 10 assists.

John Fletcher • The Shakerite

SENIOR QUARTERBACK RIVER McWilliams drops back to pass during the Oct. 6 Homecoming game against Mentor. Shaker lost 49-7.

Football

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Just two years removed from a playoff birth, the Raider football squad has slipped to 1-9, their only win coming against an undermanned Collinwood squad. One of the lone bright spots on the team has been the play of junior wide receiver Perez Ashford, who caught 53 passes this year, breaking his own record of 39. Ashford also broke Jameson Evans' records for receiving yards in a season (684) and career yards (1,299). Equally impressive are the numbers that opposing offenses put up against the Shaker defense. The team was outscored 442-186, though Shaker offense was much improved due to a solid running game when running back Roman Lawson was healthy.

Women's golf

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

It was another tough season for the women's golf team, coached by Fred Weed. The young team finished with a 3-11 record and a fourth place finish in the Northeast Ohio Girls' Golf Conference.

Despite the record, the Raiders showed improvement all year, with each golfer setting personal scoring records and showing continuous improvement throughout the season. Sophomore Caitlin Kempton was named conference player of the year, and senior Remi Bruell was on the all-conference second team.

Men's golf

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

While Julian Bruell became the first golfer to qualify for the state tournament in coach Bob Wonson's 24-year tenure, the men's golf team struggled after losing four starters from last year's team. Sorely missed were Kevin McDonald and Bobby Widen, who each averaged 40 strokes per match last season.

Bruell led the team all season, keeping the Raiders in many matches with consistently low scores. The team finished with a 6-9 record and a second place LEL finish – though falling much further behind first place Mentor, than last year's two-stroke loss at the LEL meet.

> " [Bruell] is the difference between us and the rest of the [Lake] division. "
>
> Bob Wonson
> Head coach

Bobby O' Connor • The Shakerite

MIDFIELDER MAGGIE O'CONNOR passes the ball at Hawken Sept. 18. The team finished with an 11-3-1 record.

Field hockey

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

Though they lost to Hathaway Brown in the regional finals last year, the field hockey team carried its momentum from an otherwise strong playoff run into this year. The Raiders finished with a 11-3-1 record and a second place finish in the Northeast Ohio Field Hockey League behind rival Hathaway Brown. Despite a 4-2 victory over the Blazers, a loss to Western Reserve Academy and a tie with Hudson prevented them from winning the league title.

A strong senior class, including midfielders Maggie O'Connor and Emily Cameron, led Shaker to key wins over Magnificat and Hawken. However, the Raiders lost to Hudson 4-3 in the regional semifinals, denying the the squad a chance to avenge its loss to the Blazers last year. The team continued to make strides throughout the year, improving on both last year's record but also on the quality of play.

Women's soccer

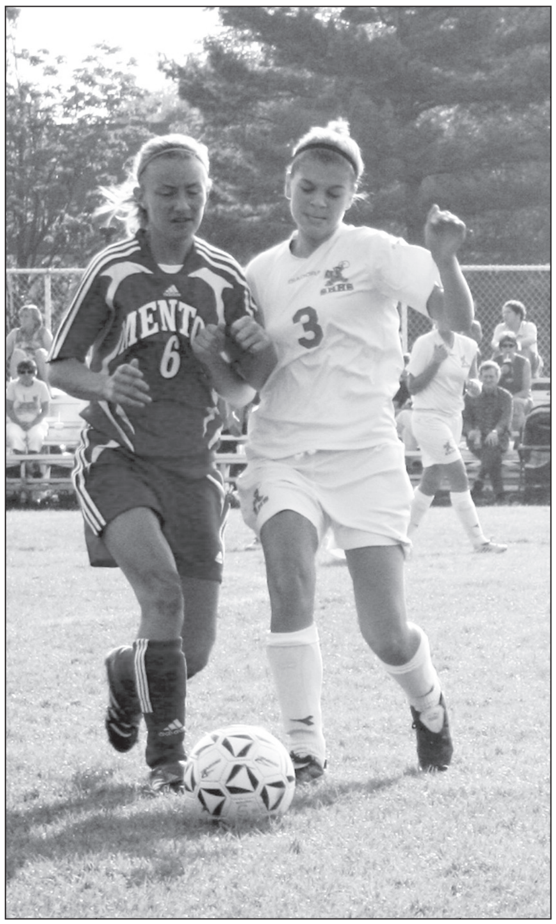
BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

The women's soccer team was able to overcome injuries and the loss of key seniors from last year's team to finish second in the LEL and earn a third seed in the district playoffs. The Raiders netted a 9-6-2 record despite losing last year's leading scorer, Julia Victor, to graduation. To make up for that loss and injuries to key experienced players, the team relied on play from a core of talented underclassmen, including forward Mary Clair, who led the team in goals.

Crew

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

In her fifth season at the helm, coach Sharon Romilly has led the team to two medals at the Head of the Cuyahoga Regatta. The lightweight four boat of Julia Wilson, Diana Jack, Alyssa Taylor, Katie Hornick and coxswain Emily Sullivan won a gold medal and Cara Murphy won a silver medal in a single. At the Head of the Charles River in Boston, Shaker's four boat (with Murphy and minus Wilson) finished 42nd out of 52. The team also participated in the Head of the Welland Regatta in Toronto and the Jack Speakmon Memorial Regatta in Columbus.



Su Dong • The Shakerite

HOLLY BOKAR, A senior midfielder, fights a Mentor player for the ball Oct. 8. The women's soccer team finished second in the LEL.

3
RAIDERS
13

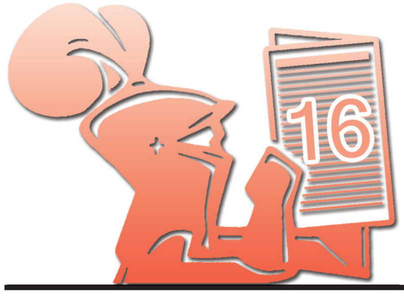
Su Dong • The Shakerite

THE RAIDER volleyball team shakes hands after a loss to Mentor Oct. 11. The team struggled this season, winning only one match.

Volleyball

BY MIKE YOUNG
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

The only reason the football team isn't the most disappointing team at Shaker is the 1-21 volleyball team. The only win came in the Hilltopper Invitational. In LEL play, the team was 0-10. Though most people would find few positives in a one-win season, senior Kristen McCrae can find some. "We learned better passing technique," she said. "[This season] will be an invaluable experience for the underclassmen." The team will only graduate three seniors, so things can only look up.



RECORD SETTING ALUMNUS

Former Shaker women's soccer standout Danesha Adams ('04) has continued to set records after leaving Shaker for UCLA. While at Shaker, the star forward set the record for single season goals and assists. Now playing for the number-one ranked Bruins, Adams has scored seven goals in the first 14 games. She holds UCLA's career record for points in the NCAA tournament. Adams has a chance to set two more records, needing only four game-winning goals, a starting position during the final six games of the regular season and two more games started in tournament play to set the record with 89 games started.

Bruell blasts his way to states

BY TEDDY CAHILL
RAIDER ZONE EDITOR

After shooting a magical round at the district tournament, even ace Shaker golfer Julian Bruell's special headgear couldn't help him overcome the fearsome winds at the state tournament.

"Even wearing my lucky hat today didn't save me from another bad round [90–94]. I hit the ball well, but didn't play the wind," Bruell said. "I misclubbed so much . . . I played like an idiot."

Bruell advanced to the state tournament after finishing second at the district tournament Oct. 11. He is the first Shaker golfer to make the trip to Columbus since 1969, when the entire team qualified under coach Al Raymond. Bruell, a senior, shot a four over par 75, putting only 29 times.

It was a different story in Columbus, however, where Bruell tackled Ohio State's Scarlet Course, which was renovated by Jack Nicklaus in 2005.

The facelift, which cost $4.2 million, made the course much more difficult. Greens were resurfaced and massive bunkers added across the course.

"The scarlet course wasn't the hardest course I've ever played on," said Bruell, who finished 64th. "But those were the hardest conditions I've ever played in."

Bruell wasn't the only golfer having problems with the difficult course. Hilliard Darby's David Haley, Jr. was the state champion with a score of 11-over-par 153.

The first day was characterized by high winds during the afternoon, when the higher qualifiers were finishing their opening rounds.

Head coach Bob Wonson was also making his first appearance at the state tournament for golf.

"I've had players talented enough to qualify [for states before]," Wonson said. "But for one reason or another it just hasn't happened."

Bruell's tournament run is attributable to his preparation for the postseason. He finished second in the Lake Erie League Tournament before rolling through the sectional and district tournaments.

"Julian's been an outstanding golfer since the first day I saw him," Wonson said. "He's saved his best for last."

Bruell wanted to improve on his postseason finish last year, when he played well during the regular season but failed to advance past the sectional tournament.

"My goal was to win every match," Bruell said. "But I didn't want to have a great season and not make it to states. I sacrificed the regular season for the tournament."

Bruell isn't the only ace golfer in the family. His twin sister, Remi, plays on the women's team at Shaker. His older sister, Frederique, played four years at Shaker, including two years as a member of the men's team before the women's golf team was formed. She now plays at Elon University in North Carolina, where she was named Southern Conference Athlete of the Month in September. At Shaker, Frederique missed the state tournament by one stroke two years in a row.

"I did it for her. She was mad when I told her I qualified," Bruell said. However, Frederique couldn't believe how poorly her brother played in Columbus. "She was upset when I told her what I shot."

Bruell wants to continue to play after leaving high school, probably walking on at a Division I program. Wonson is sure that Bruell can continue his success if he continues to play up to his potential.

"I'm very happy for Julian," Wonson said. "He works as hard at his game as any other athlete at the high school."

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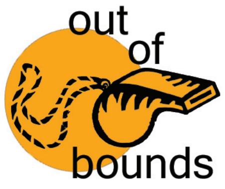
SENIOR GOLFER JULIAN Bruell shoots out of the rough at the Highland Park Course. This year, he became the first Shaker golfer since 1969 to qualify for the state tournament in Columbus, where Bruell struggled, finishing 64th.

Assistant trainer lightens workload; NBA opens season



SHAKER'S NEW ASSISTANT TRAINER

When head athletic trainer **Bob Collins** is not driving the trainer cart at football games, some, if they really care, wonder, "What happened to TB?" The new face behind the wheel is **Jim Prueter**, who works for the Cleveland Clinic. According to Collins, "He [Prueter] covers here at the high school whenever we need him. . . He's a 'floater' and goes to other high schools in the area, too."

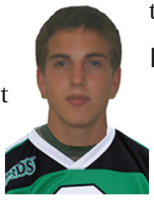
NBA SEASON PREVIEW

The Cleveland Cavaliers' march back to the NBA Finals has begun, helping to put the Cleveland Indians' ALCS collapse behind us. NBA analysts seem to forget that the Cavaliers won the Eastern Conference last year, while no Eastern Conference team except the last-place Boston Celtics improved its roster during the off-season (especially not the Cavs).

While the Celtics now have the East's best trio in **Kevin Garnett**, **Ray Allen** and **Paul Pierce**, they don't have any depth. **Kendrick Perkins** is their starting center, and their starting point guard, **Rajon Rondo**, averaged fewer than four assists per game in 78 contests last season. The Chicago Bulls still don't have any low-post scoring threats. Otherwise, the East is full of pretenders.

The Phoenix Suns and defending champion San Antonio Spurs dominate the Western Conference and the NBA. The Dallas Mavericks would be in the same category, but they need their best player, forward **Dirk Nowitzki**, to step up in the clutch. Otherwise, it will come down to the Spurs and Suns. This time with any luck it won't be decided on the suspension of **Amare Stoudamire**, as the Western Conference Semifinals were last season.

TEDDY
CAHILL


JOSH
CURRY

MIKE
YOUNG

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF HYSTERIA

It is abundantly clear that Cincinnati St. Xavier is the favorite to run the table in the state playoffs. Region I, which comprises northeast Ohio, is clearly down this year, as Mentor, once again, is the favorite to make it out of the region unscathed. This season, though, Mentor's defense is not state championship quality, as it was last year.

The top two teams in Division I are really St. Xavier, despite the injury to starting quarterback **John Hurley**, ranked second in the nation by Sports Illustrated, and Cincinnati Colerain, ranked ninth. Both play in the same region, so we might as well declare the winner of that game (likely to be Xavier) state champions.

NCAA FOOTBALL MIDTERMS

See anybody familiar at the top of the BCS rankings? That would be Ohio State, which topped the rankings all season last year before losing to Florida. For the first time since we've been watching college football, there really seems to be no dominant team. LSU, which appeared unbeatable after the Florida game in which they converted all five fourth downs they attempted, ran into trouble against Kentucky, losing 43-37 in triple overtime. The defense that seemed so dominant in previous weeks (except when Florida quarterback **Tim Tebow** ran the ball), looked rather ordinary -- especially in the secondary -- against Kentucky quarterback **Andre Woodson**.

The madness continued when South Florida, ranked second in the BCS, lost to unranked Rutgers on the road. Vegas odds makers have been reluctant to agree with the polls' top-ranked teams. Going into the game, the South Florida Bulls were only a two-point favorite, while then fifth-ranked Wisconsin was the underdog against unranked Illinois earlier this season.

At this point, we're not ruling out the possibility that two one-loss teams could make it to the Tostito's BCS National Championship Game, which has only happened once since the advent of the BCS in 1999.